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Palestinian Affairs

Finland To Allow Transit of Soviet Jews

PLO Issues Statement

JN0407171990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The PLO has expressed surprise over the Finnish Government's decision to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate via Finland.

In an official statement, brother Zuhayr al-Wazir, the PLO representative in Helsinki, said that he was astounded at this decision, which is not an internal Finnish matter in view of its dangerous effects on the Palestinian people. He declared that the decision is unjust, especially since the emigration has highly negative consequences for the Palestinians.

Brother Zuhayr al-Wazir viewed this step as a blatant violation of human rights, rights the Palestinian people must not be deprived of. It also means Finnish support for a military operation. He expressed deep regret over the fact that this measure is not a sign of neutrality in Finnish foreign policy.

Qaddumi Denounces Decision

LD0407163990 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization deplores the decision of the Finnish Government on the admission and transit to Israel of Soviet Jews. This is stated by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, in a statement issued today. He says that the organized waves of emigration, taking place under the protection of the Zionist movement, mean the acceptance of the occupation of Palestinian territories and constitute an aggressive action against the Palestinian people. Qaddumi warned the international community about the effects of the emigration policy. According to him, this increases tension in the Middle East and encourages Israel to start a new war. Qaddumi's statement was conveyed by the PLO's information office in Finland.

The director of the information office, Zuhayr al-Wazir, today withdrew some of his earlier statements, but threatened Finland with sanctions. After a discussion with representatives of the PLO headquarters, Al-Wazir reiterated in "TV Nytt" [Swedish-language news program on Finnish television] that the PLO is planning economic and political sanctions against those countries which grant transit permits to Soviet Jews. According to Al-Wazir, the Arab countries will hold a meeting in a few weeks' time to discuss a proposal according to which the PLO should break off economic and political relations with countries that grant transit permits to Jews.

Khalaf Refuses To Condemn Seaborne Operation

PM0507112990 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 28 Jun 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: We Did Not Promise To Halt the Armed Struggle"]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) has emphasized the PLO's refusal to condemn the seaborne fedayeen operation on occupied Palestine's coast. He told AL-MADINAH that, despite the PLO's numerous objections to that operation, "we will not condemn it, because by doing that we would be condemning Palestinian armed struggle, which is a legitimate right of any people seeking independence and seeking to get rid of occupation and colonialism." He pointed out that the PLO has not promised anyone that it will halt the armed struggle. He also emphasized that "Palestinian military operations are aimed against not civilians but the military establishment occupying our country."

Abu-Iyad said that peace is the big loser as a result of the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

U.S. President George Bush recently decided to suspend the dialogue with the PLO until the PLO condemns the fedayeen operation carried out against Israel by the Palestine Liberation Front at the end of May.

Abu-Iyad said that the suspension of the dialogue has given a chance to the Israeli forces hostile to peace. In this context he said that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has aggressive schemes which it seeks to implement in stages. And he cited here the attempts to liquidate the intifadah and the alternative homeland plan for "the Palestinians' evacuation to Jordan."

Abu-Iyad emphasized that Palestinians, wherever they may be, will continue to fight alongside Jordan against the alternative homeland plan.

Views U.S. Dialogue

JN0307172190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother Salah Khalaf has emphasized that the European role in advancing peace efforts in the Middle East is important, especially after the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He said any Palestinian move should enjoy more coordination within the Arab framework.

In a press statement published in Paris today, he said that the Palestinian dialogue was positive, although it did not change the U.S. bias in favor of Israel. He said that while the dialogue was going on, Washington had used the veto at the Security Council seven times in favor of Israel. He predicted that Washington would not soon reverse its decision to suspend the dialogue, stressing that it should be resumed from a position of strength on the part of the Palestinians.

Brother Salah Khalaf also declared that any move toward peace should be based on the Palestinian peace initiative, which has given importance to the Palestine question in Europe.

Hilal Expects U.S. Dialogue To Resume 'Shortly'

PM0507115190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 29 Jun 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Information Department Head Tells AL-MADINAH: "We Expect Dialogue With United States To Be Restored"]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Information Department Director Jamil Hilal has expressed his belief that the United States will shortly reconsider its position on the decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO and will restore the dialogue. In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH the Palestinian official said that the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO adversely affects the peace process.

Hilal pointed out that the U.S. Administration's suspension of the dialogue with a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict is bound to weaken the U.S. role substantially. Therefore, we believe that it would beneficial to restore the dialogue and raise its level in order to deal with fundamental issues that serve the peace process in the Middle East.

The PLO Information Department director said that the PLO's position is still the same, namely as announced by the Palestine National Council and as announced by the Palestinian peace initiative: We are against terrorism, but at the same time we adhere to our right to pursue armed struggle.

Asked about the link between the peace process and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Hilal said that the dialogue is a contributory factor in the peace process, citing the statement which Baker made a day or two after the decision to suspend the dialogue, in which he said that there can no peace without the PLO.

With regard to the PLO's future political orientation, Hilal said that the PLO's major orientation will be to escalate the intifadah in the occupied territories, on the grounds that it is the principal factor which prompted the U.S. Administration to initiate a dialogue with the PLO.

On the benefits accruing to the PLO through the dialogue with the United States, the Palestinian official said that the fundamental achievement is represented by the tacit U.S. recognition of the PLO as legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

At the political level the dialogue did not develop the U.S. Administration's position and achieved nothing tangible. This is why we requested in the past, and will request if it is restored, first an enhancement of its level and then a change in its essence so as to discuss the Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the Palestinian people's protection against organized Israeli terrorism. That way we can turn the dialogue into a factor supportive of the peace process, not a factor of trickery and procrastination.

Abu-Sharif Urges U.S. To Suspend Israel Aid

LD0407165990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Following the Israeli Government's approval of Sharon's plan, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has called on the U.S. President and his administration to take steps in line with the U.S. foreign aid law which stipulates that U.S. aid will be suspended to countries which violate human rights and the Geneva accord. He stressed that Palestinian resistance to the seizure of Palestinian citizens' land by occupation forces and to settlers are inseparable parts of the Palestinian people's resistance to occupation, as stipulated by the UN Charter.

'Arafat 'Agreed' to Cairo Plan on U.S. Dialogue

PM0307103990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 90 pp 1-4

[Mahmud Sadiq report: "Washington Studying Plan Agreed by 'Arafat"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egypt has submitted to the U.S. Administration a new plan incorporating proposals to help the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue which Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, agreed to during a telephone conversation with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during the latter's visit to Washington.

An informed Egyptian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that U.S. President George Bush promised Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid during their talks in Washington that he would study the Egyptian plan and send a special envoy within days to inform Egypt of Washington's final position.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the aim of the Egyptian plan is the abrogation of Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO and the resumption of the dialogue, without setting a date, in return for the PLO providing new clarifications to the U.S. Administration about its position on the operation carried out against the Tel Aviv beach.

The Egyptian plan also includes the need for this to be accompanied by an active U.S. move to boost peace efforts, urge Israel to respond to the proposed initiatives, first and foremost U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, and reactivate contacts between Washington and some Palestinian leaders who are not PLO Executive Committee members. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in Cairo have said there are several alternatives being raised at the highest level in the PLO to discuss compromise solutions for the resumption of

the dialogue with the PLO. They said that these alternatives will be announced after the 'Id al-Adha holiday. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian sources said that they are completely satisfied with the results of Egyptian-U.S. contacts following the decision to suspend the direct dialogue with the United States. They pointed out that Egypt conveyed the Palestinian viewpoint in full to both President George Bush and Secretary of State Baker.

The sources said in their statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the results of the investigation being conducted inside the PLO with regard to the recent fedayeen operation on the Tel Aviv beach will be completed before the next Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled for 6 July.

Palestinian Official Calls for Convening PNC

LD0507090890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0824 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 5 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian leader Thursday called for the convocation of the Palestine National Council to reformulate the Palestinian work in conformity with the perils of the current stage, warning that Israel might strike Palestinian positions in Arab states.

In an interview with Lebanese daily AL-LIWA' published here today, member of the Politburo of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front Khalid Abd al-Majid anticipated that the hardline government of Israel would demolish peace efforts aimed at solving the Middle East crisis. He also expected that the United States and Israel will make a new deal in the area at the expense of the Palestinians and some Arab states.

'Abd al-Majid said the Israeli extreme right government of Yitzhaq Shamir will in the future attempt to implement its old dream of resettling Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine and expelling Palestinians to Lebanon and Jordan.

Such a step tops the list of priorities of the Israeli extreme government Yitzhaq Shamir, the Palestinian official cautioned. He expressed the Palestinian concern towards such challenges, noting that the Palestine Liberation Organization has exhausted all possible means to achieve a political settlement.

'Arafat Deducts From PLO Salaries To Aid Iran

JN0407165690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday issued decisions in support of our brothers in Iran afflicted by the earthquakes there. The decision by brother President Abu-'Ammar provides for a five percent deduction from the salaries of all strugglers in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution. The decision stems from feelings of solidarity, responsibility, and humanity.

Boussena, Ministers Discuss Next OPEC Meeting

LD0407212190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The situation of the oil market was at the center of a meeting this afternoon in Algiers between the Algerian [Mines] minister and chairman of OPEC Sadek Boussena and the Kuwaiti oil minister and his Indonesian counterpart. This is a meeting within the framework of consultations by the OPEC chairman and in the prospect for the next OPEC meeting. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Oil Minister Previews Talks in Algeria

LD0307112890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0942 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Oil Minister Rashid Salim al-Amiri left here Tuesday for Algeria for talks with his Algerian counterpart [title as received] Sadek Boussena on increasing Kuwait's oil production quota.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Amiri expressed optimism about his visit to Algeria and said that his talks with Boussena, who is the current chairman of OPEC, will also tackle improving the oil market situation.

Al-Amiri said that the Algerian minister "has left the door open" during his recent visit to Kuwait and showed understanding of Kuwait's desire to increase its oil quota.

The Algeria meeting, which comes before the annual OPEC meeting scheduled for July [word indistinct] is an attempt to bring together different views of OPEC members.

Following his visit to Algeria, Al-Amiri will leave for London to inspect activities of the International Kuwaiti Petroleum Company.

Al-Amiri is accompanied by assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs (Seham al-Rezouki), deputy managing director for marketing at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Abdullah al-Roumi [name as received] and other oil officials.

Algeria

Ghazali Denounces Voice of Palestine Suspension

JN0107061290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] The Algerian national radio has decided to stop broadcasting the Voice of Palestine service from its central studios. The program has been broadcast from 1900 to 2000 daily for the past 20 years. The director of the Algerian radio justified his decision by saying that work was to be carried out at the radio's headquarters.

The decision caused a big furor in Algeria prompting the Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali to denounce it and to send a letter to the Embassy of Palestine in Algiers affirming that the Algerian Government and people will not allow anybody to silence the Voice of Palestine, and promising that the competent authorities will take the appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of this development.

President Appoints Two New Advisers

LD3006192290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] The president of the republic has made the following two appointments: Mohamed Sehnoun as counsellor to the president on diplomatic activities; Brigadier General Hussein Ben Maalem as counsellor to the president on security affairs.

Appointments to Information Council Listed

LD0107110390 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 1 July APS—[passage omitted] In conformity with the articles of the law and in connection with the formation of the Higher Council of Information, the president of the republic has made the following appointments to the council:
—Chairman: Mr Ali Abdellaoui.
—Member: Mr Belkacem Hassan Jaballah.
—Member: Mr Mohamed Saidi. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Turns Down Shamir Invitation To Visit

NC0507104690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 2 Jul 90 pp. 8,9

[Text] The Egyptian leadership has sent an urgent message to the new Israeli military government in which President Husni Mubarak turned down an invitation, which Yitzhaq Shamir sent in a message delivered by Israel's Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir. In the message, Shamir called on Mubarak to visit Israel and turn over a new leaf in Egyptian-Israeli relations. Shamir also called on Mubarak to allow a delegation of six ministers of the new government, led by Foreign Minister David Levi, to visit Egypt to prepare for Mubarak's visit and discuss bilateral ties.

In the Egyptian message to the Israeli Government, President Mubarak indicated his refusal to visit Israel or to allow any Israeli delegation to visit Cairo for the time being, due to Cairo's views about Shamir's government. Cairo is refusing to deal with that government because of Shamir's refusal to recognize the PLO or its leaders or open dialogue with the PLO.

It is worth noting that President Mubarak has asked the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv to stress that he refuses to visit Israel for any reason. The ambassador was asked to relay Mubarak's full views to Shamir and his government. Mubarak's view is well-known because he made it clear that he will never visit Israel until an independent Palestinian state is established on the entire Palestinian national soil ['ala kamil al-turab al-watani al-filastini].

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From U.S., Italy Tour

NC0107051690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Rome tonight following a week-long tour of Italy and the United States.

In a statement upon his return, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he believes that the message he carried from President Mubarak to U.S. President Bush was appropriately timed. He added that, following his meetings in Washington, the U.S. Administration announced that the issue of resuming the dialogue with the PLO was a subject under discussion and that the dialogue was halted for reasons known to the Egyptians.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the U.S. Administration is willing to remain committed to the peace process and said: This issue requires action on our part with the Palestinian brothers.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he hopes that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be resumed as a result of the message he carried from President Mubarak to President Bush and the meetings he held in Washington with Bush and James Baker. He also expressed hope that the peace process will move ahead, noting that this is the wish of those who care about this process.

On his visit to Italy, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said it followed an invitation from Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michalis in response to an earlier visit he had made to Egypt. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that he had wanted to make this visit because Italy will assume the chairmanship of the EC as of tomorrow, Sunday, 1 July 1990. He said that he met with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and former prime minister Bettino Craxi. He added that during these talks the Italian officials asserted their support for Egypt's

stand and their conviction that Egyptian policy is concerned with attaining peace. He said he sensed that Italian officials wish to establish peace in the Middle East in view of the fact that Italy is close to this region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised Egyptian-Italian ties which he described as excellent.

He added that he met with Pope John Paul II and conveyed to him Egypt's appreciation for the Vatican's role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is due to submit a comprehensive report on his tour to President Mubarak.

Paper Asks U.S. To Be 'Firm Enough' With Israel

JN0107204490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jun 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Israeli Escalation a Threat to Peace"]

[Text] Reports from Israel cite a noticeable escalation in the Jewish settlement plans and that practical measures have begun to settle thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. It seems as though the new, extreme-right government under Yitzhaq Shamir wants to indicate that it neither respects international agreements nor heeds international protests, and that its policy will henceforth be based on imposing faits accomplis by force.

What is more dangerous than all of this is that the Israeli Government has allowed armed terrorist militias to form from these immigrants, whose primary task will be to suppress the Palestinian intifadah and employ every method and means that will eventually create a state of panic and fear among the Palestinian people leading to the implementation of the plot to usurp the occupied territories and expel the original inhabitants in favor of these new settlers.

We believe this irresponsible Israeli behavior constitutes a serious threat to peace and indicates that, under this extremist government, Israel intends to push the region up a blind alley that will ultimately lead either to capitulation to Israel's aggressive intentions and ambitions or to a loss in confidence in any peace efforts, and will return the region again to the cycle of violence and war.

What causes concern is that this open Israeli escalation comes despite the U.S. Administration's criticism of the Shamir government's position on peace efforts. This fact raises doubts as to the seriousness of this criticism and demonstrates Israel's awareness that they are empty words, unlike the stubborn U.S. stance toward the PLO represented by suspending the U.S.-PLO dialogue—a stance that, one way or another, has encouraged Israel's extreme rightist trends.

Therefore, we believe that the U.S. Administration should move quickly to stop the Israeli escalation of settlements and reconsider its decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO so as to restore credibility to its role in the peace process.

And while first indications of 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's talks in Washington show there is a U.S. response to Egypt's efforts to revive peace efforts, we still believe that the U.S. Administration should tell Israel clearly that it will not hesitate to impose appropriate sanctions against it if escalation continues in the Arab territory and if Israel does not come forward with a positive gesture showing its readiness to go along the road to peace.

If the United States fails to show courage and firm enough with Israel, peace will probably disappear into thin air.

Industrial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Libya

JN2906161890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 90 p 1

[By Hani Salih]

[Text] Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah signed an industrial cooperation agreement yesterday for the export of $100 million worth of raw materials and basic products. This amount is to be divided equally between the two countries and could go up. This is very similar to what is known as equal deals.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Industry Minister Eng. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and for Libya by Amin Hilmi Kamil, secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industry.

Industry Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab reported that the agreement will go into effect immediately with the study of the needs of Libyan factories such as technical expertise and raw and basic materials, so they can operate at full capacity, and with joint projects in both countries involving high-demand goods.

Libya will determine which factories are to be included in the studies of the Egyptian experts.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak

NC3006143490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros has asserted that his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning was extremely important. He said that he delivered a message to his excellency from the Uruguayan president. He stated that the meeting dealt with the international situation, bilateral relations, and ties among countries within the United Nations, and the peace efforts in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Istanbul

NC0107161890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1406 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiel left Cairo for Istanbul today following a four-day visit to Egypt, during which he met President Husni Mubarak and handed him a message from Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera.

The Uruguayan foreign minister described his meeting with President Mubarak as positive and important, adding that President Mubarak is a man of great insight and intelligence. He said that he had invited President Mubarak to visit Uruguay and that the president promised to do so. The date of the visit is to be arranged through diplomatic channels.

In a departure statement, the Uruguayan minister described his visit to Egypt as effective and positive. He noted that he had held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. The talks covered various aspects of bilateral relations.

Minister Gros Espiel pointed out that Egypt has an effective role to play in stimulating the Middle East peace process, adding that the intensive efforts that Egypt is making and the wide-ranging consultations it is holding are of great importance in bringing about the desired peace.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that his country is eager to consolidate its ties with Egypt, which he described as a country with a special standing among world nations.

Zairian Energy Minister Departs

NC0107163090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1411 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Mboso N'kodia Fwanga, Zaire's minister of housing affairs, mines, and energy, left Cairo today following a three-day visit to Egypt. During his visit he took part in the meetings of the energy ministers of the "Undugo" Nile Basin countries, which concluded in Cairo yesterday, Saturday.

The Zairian minister described the outcome of the "Undugo" conference as positive and important. He pointed out that during the conference, which lasted three days, the participants discussed a project for linking the electricity grids of Egypt and Zaire, via the Central African Republic and Sudan, with finance from the African Bank. In a departure statement, the Zairian minister said that the project will involve extending an electricity cable for the first time from the Inga river power stations to carry 60,000 megawatts across the country's borders.

Morocco

Morocco-Libya Commission Approves Pact

LD2906214290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Moroccan-Libyan Higher Joint Commission concluded today the work of its first session by signing an agreement to form a cooperation committee, which will be chaired from the Moroccan side by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and from the Libyan side by Mr Jadallah 'Azzuz al- Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. They also signed a trade and customs agreement in which the two sides promised to work gradually toward establishing a customs union between them. The customs and trade agreement specified that local goods will be exempted from import duties.

The minutes of the meetings of the Higher Joint Commission were also signed. The minutes specified a number of resolutions aimed at raising the level of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Sahara Issue in Final Phase

LD3006141890 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Rabat, Jun 30 (MAP)—The Sahara issue, 'this artificial crisis that lasted but not for too long... is at its final phase and everybody now realizes that Morocco has constantly given proof of its good will and wisdom,' writes this Saturday Moroccan daily 'LE MATIN DU SAHARA ET DU MAGHREB' in a comment on the latest developments of the question with the triggering of the un sponsored process for the settlement of the Sahara conflict.

The pro-governmental daily recalled as an evidence to this change in the international public opinion about the Sahara problem the recent poll conduct in Portugal which showed that a majority of those polled considers the holding of a referendum as useless and the Sahara as Moroccan.

Morocco's cause has finally triumphed and the final phase is now reached with the coming organization of the referendum by the United Nations, the daily stated adding that 'as forecast by King Hassan II, the referendum will merely enable the inhabitants of the Saharan provinces to reaffirm their Moroccan citizenship and attachment to their homeland and king'.

'L'OPINION', another Moroccan daily had also published Friday a story on the Sahara issue and the referendum saying that 'the referendum, voluntarily accepted by Morocco, can only be confirmative since the populations of the Saharan provinces as well as the Saharan populations sequestrated in the Tindouf camps are attached to their Moroccanity, as they reaffirmed it on many occasions'.

For the daily of the Istiqlal party (Nationalist-Opposition), the referendum will not question

Morocco's sovereignty over its Sahara, it will be a mere formality that will definitely put an end to the propaganda circulated by some.

As to the role of the United Nations Organization that will supervise the holding of the referendum, the daily noted that the consultation cannot take place without the assistance of the Moroccan adminstration which is besides willing to help the UNO fulfil its mission.

Geneva Meeting With Polisario Denied

LD0407164290 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, Jul 4, (MAP)—Sources close to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation have categorically denied information alleging that Moroccan and "Polisario" delegations will meet in Geneva.

The "Polisario" representative in Spain had announced, Tuesday [3 July] in Ma.rid, that the alleged was slated for next week in Geneva. The Moroccan source specified that a Moroccan delegation will be heading for Geneva next week to meet with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Hassan Sends Condolences to King Fahd

LD0407165490 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 4 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco has addressed King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia a message of condolences following the "Mina" tunnel catastrophe on Monday and which cost the lives of more than 1,400 pilgrims.

It was "with great pain and sorrow that we learned of the catastrophe in which pilgrims perished while piously addressing the almighty. Asking for his pardon and his blessing", the message read. "What alleviates our sorrow", the message added, "is that we are fervent believers in the divine will and in destiny...God has chosen his martyrs at the moment of the great pilgrimage and in the very 'Al Haram al Sharif', where their hearts were fully open to faith and their souls calmly heading towards the creator."

Reiterating his condolences, King Hassan said "We ask you to have conscience in peace, given the high sollicitude you grant pilgrims and the great efforts you deploy at the service of the two holy shrines by watching over their guests".

"What has happened is the expression of the divine will that we, believers, accept", King Hassan concluded.

The catastrophe took place on Monday when pilgrims in the "Mina" tunnel near Mecca panicked after seven people fell off a bridge. The fall of the seven people generated panic among the pilgrims who trampled on one another", Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif bin-'Abd-al-Aziz explained. He said 1,462 people died suffocated or trampled on inside the tunnel east of Mecca. Prince Nayif said with some 50,000 inside of it, the tunnel itself was filled "many times its normal capacity".

Hassan Pardons Prisoners on 'Id al-Adha

LD0207213990 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] The Ministry of Justice has issued the following statement: On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha of the year 1410 ah, corresponding to 1990 AD, His Majesty King Hassan has issued an instruction to pardon 376 prisoners from their remaining years in jail or prison; to commute the jail or prison setences of 198 prisoners; to pardon three people from their sentence of incarceration or fines; to pardon four individuals from their prison sentences but not fines; and to commute two prisoners' life sentences to limited sentences.

Bahrain

Amir Tells Fahd Pilgrims' Death 'Act of Fate'

JN0407182390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has expressed sorrow over the distressing incident resulting in the death of pilgrims while performing one of the pilgrimage rites.

In a cable of condolences to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, the Bahraini amir said: What happened was an unavoidable act of fate. If God predestines something, His acts become unavoidable.

His highness the amir paid tribute to the commendable efforts being made by the custodian of the two holy mosques to serve pilgrims and improve the lot of the Islamic nation. He also beseeched God Almighty to reward those charged with serving pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the commendable efforts that they have made during this years' pilgrimage season.

Kuwait

Amir Offers King Fahd Sympathies on Mina Deaths

LD0407123390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 4 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir on Wednesday telephoned King Fahd 'Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia offering his sympathies for the tragic death of pilgrims in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel stampede [in Mina] two days ago.

His highness told the monarch that human losses could have been greater had it not been for the providence and the measures taken by the Saudi authorities to safeguard Muslim pilgrims.

King Fahd thanked his highness for the gesture and repeated his conviction that the accident was a fateful tragedy willed by the almighty.

Government Welcomes Iraq, Iran Peace Talks

LD0507100190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0910 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 5 (KUNA)—Kuwait Thursday welcomed the resumption of direct peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran to settle their conflict through diplomatic means and achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Gulf region.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad said in a statement to KUNA today that Kuwait has followed with concern the resumption of talks in Geneva last Tuesday between Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers in the presence of the UN secretary general.

Sheikh Sabah expressed Kuwait's satisfaction over the fraternal atmosphere that dominated the meetings, adding "undoubtedly this will be an important factor for both sides to achieve postitive results along the way to a permanent and comprehensive peace between them to allow both Muslim neighboring states to accomplish stability and welfare for their people."

The Kuwaiti official expressed hope that the success of the talks would lead to solving all pending problems between Iraq and Iran so as to realise stability and peace in the region.

Qatar

Amir Sends King Fahd Condolences on Mina Deaths

JN0407172290 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, July 4 (GNA)—The amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the tragic death of pilgrims in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel stampede in Mina.

The amir of Qatar expressed sorrow for such unfortunate incident and hailed, in the meantime, the services and care offered by Saudi Arabia to pilgrims to enable them [to] fullfil their pilgrimage in the best of circumstances.

The Qatari Crown Prince and Minister of Defence Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani also sent a similar message to King Fahd.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Nayif Says 1,426 Killed in Tunnel Accident

LD0307202190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 3 Jul 90

["Text" of statement by Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on 3 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and prayers be on the last of the prophets and the messengers, our Prophet amd Lord Muhammad, prayers and peace be upon him, in clarification of the statement issued yesterday noon by an authorized source at the Ministry of Interior concerning the heavy suffocation incident at the al-Mu'aysim tunnel as a result of crowding, and to avoid unfounded speculations and expectations by people on this incident, I want in this brief statement to clarify the truth about what happened inside and outside the mentioned tunnel.

On the morning of Monday the level of crowding on the pedestrians' bridge which leads to the al-Mu'aysim tunnel increased at a time when the pressure of crowding

inside the tunnel exceeded its capacity by severalfold to an estimated total of more than 50,000 people. The rush of pilgrims over the bridge led to the fall of seven pilgrims from the bridge at the entrance to the tunnel, causing a panic which led to pilgrims retreating inside the tunnel, only to clash with other blocs of people who had entered the tunnel. As a result of this regrettable fact I have explained, a number of deaths occurred among the pilgrims estimated at 1,426, according to the Ministry of Health reports. In addition, there were cases of passing out which were treated on the spot. Television pictures you are about to see now may help us to see the picture I have mentioned.

While I express my extreme sorrow and the pain of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, for this incident which we consider an act of fate, I extend to the families of the dead most sincere condolences and beseech God to have mercy on them and let them live in his vast paradise and make them among the martyrs, and grant their families patience and solace. To God we belong and to him we return.

Saddam Husayn Consoles Fahd on Pilgrims' Deaths

LD0307194990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1837 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Mina, 3 Jul (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received today a telephone call from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, in which he expressed his brotherly condolences over the death of a number of pilgrim brothers inside al-Mu'ayssim tunnel yesterday, Monday morning.

The custodian of the two holy mosques received these brotherly Islamic sentiments from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn with the deepest sense of gratitude and appreciation, asking God, the exalted, to protect all Muslims against every adversity.

King Fahd, 'Abdallah Address Hajj Pilgrims

LD0307190890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Mina, 3 July, (SPA)—On the occasion of this year's hajj the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, addressed a comprehensive and extensive speech to the pilgrims to God's holy house at a grand annual festivity held by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at Mina Palace. Here is the text of the address: [not specified whether delivered by King Fahd or Crown Prince 'Abdallah] [passage omitted]

Brother pilgrims to God's holy house, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Praise be to God who has brought us together in the most honorable gathering. We are meeting you today on this blessed good land obeying God, and turning toward Him with our bodies and hearts aspiring for His forgiveness and generosity and begging Him for mercy and forgiveness. [passage omitted]

Islam does not incite anarchy, and the true Muslim is concerned more than anyone else with order and discipline. He is most concerned with and attached to solidarity, and deeply opposed to division and dispersion. In brief, inclination to excesses is a rejected matter. [passage omitted]

Brothers in Islam, the world has this year witnessed radical changes that changed the structures of some regimes adopted by some peoples up to a point where many thought that no one could break free from them because they were deeply rooted in the lives of those peoples.

Despite the fact that the faithful who deeply believe in God were not surprised at those changes because only right things can survive, truth compels us to say that the changes which East Europe, for instance, witnessed appeared at the beginning to be a dream. This was due to the fact that the awakening was collective, and the relinquishing of those systems looked like the breaking up of beads on a string.

In the context of those changes, the peoples left a way of life for an alternative one after their regimes proved to be obstacles for their movement and way of life, ranging from politics to food, including economy, culture, society, morals, teaching, and education.

Under the circumstances we could not be contented just to watch. A situation such as this and its ramifications require study, scrutiny and examination by us. This is not only to know the reasons for the change but also to follow up its effects and influences. Nations are no longer [living] in isolation from each other and the knowledge of causes and effects are not beyond their reach, because the world now is one district and not one village as used to be said in the past. Therefore, the current deep studies on the use of a method of comparing between an integrated theocratic system and a positivist man-made system have revealed that survival is not only of the best; the future may not bring about something that is better than what is best now. [as received] However, survival is of the fittest too. By fitness here we mean the integrated whole that directs life in human societies within a system of coordinated dimensions, and this is fulfilled only in Islam because the general Islamic system has the attribute of stability which no other system can reach whoever may have set it up, because it is man-made. Due to the absence of the theocratic system and due to the dominance of positivist laws these societies were bound to change. [passage omitted]

God has bestowed on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the presence of the two holy places in its territories, and it has become responsible for them by virtue of its guardianship over them which is an honor that can only be surpassed by the status and position of these holy places in the hearts of all Muslims. As we regard serving and

maintaining it and safeguarding its security as an inseparable part of the duties and responsibilities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the same applies to preventing them from becoming venues of thrashing out political conflicts or exposing them to dangers that God and His messenger would not like, we had to, under the circumstances, adopt the measures in which the Islamic world as a whole—leaders, presidents, centers, organizations, societies, Islamic conferences, thinkers and reformists—agreed to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We do not find it necessary to recall or mention these measures here since they have become known and declared, and have gained the consent of the Islamic world in the Islamic Conference Organization's meetings. [passage omitted]

While finding response and cooperation from all Islamic countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has to make it known that it does not conceal anything and does not accept risking the rights of pilgrims to God's holy house in favor of others among them, and it is prepared to leave the door open to reach the guarantees which ensure that pilgrims will perform pilgrimage rites away from all that may disturb the peacefulness of their worship or disrupt their retreat for prayers and atonement.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that it will exercise its natural rights of sovereignty and security, and announces that it will reject any form of pressure or bargaining regarding the abandonment of the security of the two holy places and that of pilgrims to God's holy house. [passage omitted]

Although the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appreciates the steadfastness, bravery and courage of the Afghan mujahidin and it [Saudi Arabia] is eager to continue to support them, it urges all the Afghani jihad factions to unite, stand in solidarity and work together in order to cut the path of those who harbor evil and harm toward the Afghani jihad. Let the jihad maintain its form which is characterized by impregnability and clarity—undoubtedly they know those who are scheming to strike against the Afghani jihad and to undermine their unity and solidarity—so as to rid Afghanistan and its people of the misery they are in. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Consoles King Fahd on Mina Victims

JN0507102790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has sent a cable of condolences to his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques. He expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the pilgrims who returned to their God in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel accident. His highness the president of the state offered his most sincere sympathy and solace to the families of the martyrs and beseeched God Almighty to have his greatest mercy on them and let them live in his paradise. His highness paid tribute to the great facilities and excellent services provided by Saudi Arabia to enable the pilgrims to perform the duty of hajj easily and safely. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Phones King Fahd, Extends Condolences

JN0407173890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night telephoned his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch, to extend condolences in his name and on behalf of the Yemeni Government and people over the painful incident the pilgrims to the holy places suffered.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa 3 Jul

JN0407062190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Struggler brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Sanaa last night on a several-day visit to our country.

First Deputy Prime Minister Brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki and other officials received him on arrival at Sanaa International Airport.

Hamdoon Affirms Chemical Weapon Retaliation

AU0407153390 Vienna Television Service in German 2105 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Report on interview with (Nizar Hamdoon), state secretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, by ORF correspondent Hans Benedict; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Benedict] (Nizar Hamdoon), state secretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, details the consequences of an escalation of the crisis [between Iraq and Israel].

[Begin (Hamdoon) recording] Iraq will respond to any attack by Israel. If Israel uses nuclear weapons, we will retaliate with chemical weapons. [end recording]

First Direct Meeting With Iran Held in Geneva

Perez de Cuellar Issues Statement

JN0307142490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (INA)—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced here today that the first direct meeting between Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers will be held in his presence here at 1800 Baghdad time today.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said in a statement to reporters after emerging from a meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that the direct meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers is an important step that will help facilitate the peace process between the two countries.

The UN secretary general said that this meeting, which will be the first of its kind between the two ministers, represents a great achievement in the relations between Iraq and Iran and will be a source of great happiness and satisfaction for the United Nations [words indistinct] and exerted efforts to realize it.

Regarding the difference between this coming direct meeting and previous meetings which took place between the two ministers within the framework of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said: Before, the two ministers sat with the members of their delegations at separate tables more than five meters apart. The two ministers did not talk to each other directly, but would address me and I would relay what each said to the other.

He explained that this is the first time the ministers will address each other directly. They will converse and exchange views and talk without resorting to a third party. He said that this is very necessary when seen from the psychological aspect.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said the Iraqi and Iranian Governments showed real commitment to reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict between the two countries as soon as possible.

UN sources noted here today that two aides will accompany each minister in addition to an interpreter from each side. In addition to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the meeting will also be attended by Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative to the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, and Juan Domingo Pico [name as received], who heads the UN secretary general's executive office and holds the third-ranking position in the UN team assigned to the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

'Aziz Meets Perez de Cuellar, Comments

JN0307143990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the talks he held today with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as very beneficial.

He said in a statement to journalists after concluding talks lasting about two hours: I can safely say that some progress has been made. We will work on building upon what has already been achieved to attain our joint goal, which is comprehensive and permanent peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

Asked about the coming Iraq-Iran summit meeting, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said that the two countries have agreed in principle on holding the summit. However, there are still some preparations that have not yet been finalized.

He explained: We still need some preparation; we are working with great energy to complete this preparation so that we can hold the summit.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz met for 70 minutes with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. The two then held a 50-minute expanded meeting attended by the members of the Iraqi and UN delegations.

Yesterday, Mr. Perez de Cuellar held a similar meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati that also lasted two hours.

'Aziz Meets With Velayati

JN0307174090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (INA)—The first direct meeting was held here this evening between Iraqi and Iranian Foreign Ministers Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in the presence of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Nadyah Yunus, spokesperson for the UN secretary general, said that Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati shook hands before entering the Vitorio de Sica Hall, which is the hall where all other rounds in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations during 1988 and 1989 had taken place.

There was no table separating the conferees' chairs, which were arranged in an oval shape.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar sat in the middle of the oval. On his right sat Tariq 'Aziz and on his left 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The meeting, which was delayed two hours, was attended on the Iraqi side by Barazan al-Tikriti, [name as received] Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations' European headquarters; Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, [name as received] Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations; and an interpreter. Next to Velayati sat two of his aides in addition to an interpreter. Opposite the UN secretary general sat three members of the UN delegation.

Journalists were allowed to enter the meeting hall for five minutes along with a large number of photographers. However, they were not allowed to ask questions.

The INA correspondent in Geneva has learned that a joint statement in the name of the three delegations will be issued at the conclusion of the session. This is the first time such a step has been taken since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in August 1988.

Trilateral Statement Issued

JN0307192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (INA)—Iraq, Iran, and the United Nations have announced that Security Council Resolution 598 will remain the main framework of all contacts that take place between Iraq and Iran. The two countries declared support for the role of the UN secretary general in implementing the resolution.

This came in a joint press statement issued in the name of the three parties in conclusion of the first direct meeting held between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers, the first meeting of its kind held between the ministers since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in August 1988.

The statement stressed the continuing cooperation and support of both Iran and Iraq for the UN secretary general's role in implementing Resolution 598 issued in July 1987 to settle the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The six-paragraph statement said that the UN secretary general was convinced that today's direct meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran would help improve the atmosphere between the two countries.

It said the UN delegation will remain in contact with the Iraqi and Iranian delegations this week as part of the steps to implement Resolution No. 598.

The statement noted that within the context of these contacts, a possible visit to the region by the secretary general was discussed but no date for the visit was fixed.

This is the first time a joint statement by the three sides has been issued since the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations began in 1988.

Attending the joint meeting for Iraq were Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN's European headquarters; 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations; and Riyad al-Qaysi, head of international organizations and conferences at the Foreign Ministry.

For Iran, the meeting was attended by Manushehr Mottaqi, deputy foreign minister; Cyrus Naseri, Iran's permanent representative to the UN's European headquarters; and Kamal Kharazi, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The UN secretary general was accompanied by Jan Eliasson, his personal representative to the Iraq-Iran negotiations, and Juan Domingo Pico, director of his executive office. [all names as received]

'Aziz Returns 4 Jul

JN0407181690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here this evening at the conclusion of a two-day visit to the UN's European headquarters.

During his visit, Tariq 'Aziz met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and discussed everything related to the attainment of comprehensive and durable peace between Iraq and Iran.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during his stay in Geneva in the presence of the UN secretary general.

'Aziz Describes Velayati Meeting

JN0307194390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described his direct meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Palais de Nations in Geneva today as cordial and constructive.

In a brief statement to journalists at the end of the 40-minute meeting, he said that the aim now is to build upon what has already been achieved in order to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Asked about the chances for making such progress, Tariq 'Aziz said: We are currently working to realize this; today's developments will be a positive contribution on this score.

Asked about the timing of the next round of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, 'Aziz noted that further contacts in this respect will be held this week to discuss the convening of a meeting at the ministerial level.

On whether these contacts will be held while he is in Geneva with Velayati, 'Aziz said: I will leave tomorrow, and my Iranian colleague will also leave tomorrow; the

assistants to the secretary general may hold these contacts with the members of the two delegations.

Saddam Husayn Congratulates Bush on National Day

JN0407094290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President George Bush on his country's national day. The cable reads:

On the occasion of the United States' national day, it pleases me to congratulate you and wish you continued good health and happiness and continued progress for your people. On this occasion, we stress our concern to continue and promote relations between our two countries in accordance with the principles of mutual respect and fruitful cooperation to achieve justice, peace, and stability in our region and the world.

Arens Calls for Direct Negotiations With Syria

JN0407163790 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Report on interview with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens conducted by Maurice Bar-Kokhba, the radio's correspondent for military affairs, from the "With the Events" program; date, place of interview not given]

[Text] Asked if Syria is moving toward the road of peace, Minister Arens has said: We hope that Syria will move toward the practical road and will become interested in the road of peace. We know that relations are continuously improving between Egypt and Syria. The Syrians are aware that the Egyptians have chosen the road of peace. We hope that President Mubarak will succeed in bringing President al-Asad to the road of peace, not war.

Minister Arens added: We have not seen any move on which we can build the relationship we desire to have with the Syrians; that is, on the basis of face-to-face negotiations in preparation for a peace treaty.

In reply to another question on a dialogue between Syria and Israel, Mr. Arens said: Regrettably, we hear (?some countries) making statements every so often about war and about the need for strategic parity with Israel. Some people say that they have achieved this parity with Israel. It is known that Syria has a huge army. We know that all that is required is for one individual to make a decision. We might find ourselves at war; therefore, we are always on the alert and ready to face any danger. We are able to see these suspect matters. However, we do not really understand their actual meaning and we do not know how to explain them even in line with our own concepts. We also know that they can suddenly establish an alliance against Israel. In this alliance the existing differences will be removed. There is possibility and preparation for a fight in Syria. We are also ready to wage a war if it is imposed on us. We always take this possibility into account. However, I hope that Syria will not opt for such a course, but for peace. We are ready to meet it along the road to peace.

Asked about the differences and the hostility existing between Syria and Iraq, Minister Arens answered: I am not an expert on relations between Iraq and Syria. No one in Israel can understand this hostility and hatred between Iraq and Syria as well as between Presidents al-Asad and Saddam.

GDR Talks on Political Relations Adjourn

TA0307172990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] The talks between the Israeli and East German delegations, which began yesterday in Copenhagen in a bid to reach an agreement on the establishment of full political relations, were adjourned today. The delegations decided to return to their respective capitals for consultations. Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi points out that the adjournment of the talks was apparently caused by unforeseen difficulties emerging in the course of the discussions.

Levi Meets With U.S. Senator Lieberman

TA0407124390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that an absolute agreement is needed between Israel and the United States regarding the latter not supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state, and not forcing the PLO on Israel. Joint progress in the peace process can be made possible on this agreed basis.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Foreign Minister Levi made these remarks in a meeting this afternoon with Senator Joseph Lieberman. The U.S. senator told Levi that his frank and clear style will find an attentive ear in the United States, and that he will deliver Levi's remarks directly to Secretary of State Baker.

Commentary Views U.S. Position, Probable Response

TA0407091490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 July 90 p 7

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "Just One Little Note"]

[Text] The Shamir government could be toppled tomorrow morning by one little note with two or three names on it. The U.S. Administration, which is currently weighing its reaction to the long letter Shamir sent President Bush, must decide whether it wants to send the note. It may not bring peace, but it will certainly cause a commotion here.

The note would include the names of several Palestinian leaders from the territories who meet the criteria Shamir is supposedly willing to accept. For example, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad from al-'Ayzariyah and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash from Ramallah. These people are not deportees and are not residents of East Jerusalem, and the "moderate" wing of the Likud in particular, and of the government in general, will have to accept their participation in the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with Israel. The government will topple like a house of cards less than 24 hours after agreeing to this.

Tehiya, Tzomet, Moledet [extreme right-wing members of the coalition], and the hardliners' wing of the Likud oppose in principle the Israeli Government's peace initiative. Tzomet and Tehiya joined the coalition after being granted freedom of vote on these issues. Beyond this, however, Shamir's stubborn refusal to make a positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's questions has convinced the various hardliners that, while Shamir continues to assure the Americans he is faithful to his initiative, his plan actually has no chance of being pursued, and the hardliners can therefore safely serve in the current government.

Several days after Foreign Minister David Levi said "yes to Baker but no to his questions," Shamir once more demonstrated that the hardliners' blunt style is not his cup of tea. In his letter to Bush he couched Israel's opposition to the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalemites in terms of its "reservations" regarding the special significance denoted by the PLO to these categories of Palestinians. In his attempts to prevent a complete halt of the Israeli-U.S. dialogue on the peace plan, Shamir suggested a way out: Israel would be willing, he wrote, to discuss the composition of a Palestinian delegation on an individual basis, "name by name."

The U.S. Administration can now use the "end of the thread" supplied by Shamir as a garrote with which to throttle the Israeli Government. Shamir and his supporters will not wish to stretch the rope until it snaps—which it will do if they reject the names of kosher residents of the territories, even those known as PLO supporters—and the right-wing parties will not be able to remain in a government which agrees to negotiate with avowed PLO sympathizers.

All this will not move the peace process forward, of course, and will not lead to the composition of an acceptable Palestinian delegation, because the PLO and the moderate leadership in the territories are one and the same, and local leaders cannot dream of giving up on the unity of the Palestinian people and its capital, East Jerusalem. This brings the administration to the situation in the Arab world, and to the contest within the Labor Party.

According to hints coming from Washington, the administration is for the first time seriously considering publicly announcing to the world and to the Israeli electorate that peace cannot be achieved with Shamir and his plans. The administration, it was implied, is weighing other options, among these "the inclusion of additional countries," or in other words an international conference.

U.S. support for an international conference can now garner significant diplomatic achievements within the Arab world. This consideration cannot be ignored at a time when the administration is doing all in its power to divert the focal point from a bellicose Iraq to Egypt, which supports the political process. Even West Europe and Moscow would greatly welcome such a political turnaround.

The Americans' gaze is also fixed on events within the Labor Party. A confrontation is expected in the Labor Party, and the reports from the U.S. Embassy here to the State Department undoubtedly prophecy at least a good chance that Yitzhaq Rabin will replace Shim'on Peres at the helm. Peres, as the Americans have discovered, is a "loser." The United States believes that Rabin can deliver the goods—but only if he is given the tools with which to undermine the stability of Shamir's coalition.

Peres promised the Americans three times that "things would be all right," but they never were. In 1987 he said that the government would endorse the London agreement; in 1988 he asserted that the cabinet would not dare reject a plan bearing the name of then Secretary of State George Schultz; and in 1990 he promised that the peace process would start full blast the minute he set up a narrow government headed by himself. In the meantime, as the Americans see it, the only one who managed to make Shamir budge even an inch was Rabin, not Peres.

If the United States continues to focus on the plan for elections in the territories, it will lead to political changes here, whether through new elections, or—with the same degree of certainty—through the Labor Party's, now led by Rabin, rejoining a national unity government. On the other hand, if the United States were to adopt a united position together with Moscow, Europe, and the Arab countries, it might convince the Israeli public, at least in the short run, that the entire world is indeed united against us, as Shamir has been saying for a long time, and at the same time tie all the partners of the Shamir government together with inviolable bonds.

Arens, Herzog Send Congratulations to Egypt, U.S.

TA0307165490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has sent a message of congratulations to his Egyptian counterpart, Defense Minister Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, on the occasion of the Muslim feast of 'Id al-Adha. In his message, Arens says he hopes Abu-Talib lives to celebrate this feast in times of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

President Hayim Herzog has sent a message of congratulations to U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of the Fourth of July. In his cable, President Herzog says that the special relations of friendship between the two countries have contributed toward the establishment of peace between Israel and Egypt. These ties are an important cornerstone for stability in the region, and they will undoubtedly advance peace between Israel and its other neighbors. The president is certain that the peace process, however slow it may be, will advance due to the national and moral values of Israel and the United States, and due to their commitment toward the peace process.

Cabinet Secretary Said Planning USSR Visit

TA0307144290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, one of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's most trusted advisers, is planning to leave this Sunday for a week in the Soviet Union, informed sources told THE JERUSALEM POST. The plan has been kept under wraps.

Sources say one of the main goals of the trip, to Moscow and Leningrad, is to predict the scope of Jewish immigration to Israel in the near future. Rubinstein serves as the coordinator of an interministerial-Jewish Agency panel on immigration.

Rubinstein's closeness to Shamir raises speculation that he will seek to meet with ranking Soviet officials in the Foreign Ministry who deal with the Middle East, and authoritatively convey Israel's policy on the peace process. He will probably also try to assure Soviet officials that Israel does not plan to settle Soviet immigrants in the territories. [passage omitted]

Rubinstein was not available for comment yesterday, and officials in the Prime Minister's Office refused to confirm or deny the reported trip.

USSR Signs Energy Systems Production Agreement

TA0407112890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The Soviet Academy of Sciences is to supply Israel with components for producing advanced energy systems worth about $1 million during the next six months. The agreement was signed during the visit of Prof. Branover of Beersheba University to the Soviet Union last week. The energy systems will be developed at Beersheba University, and the Soviets will share in the profits from their sale on world markets.

Paper Reports Plan To Occupy More Arab Lands

PM0407144790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 90 p 3

[Layla Dib report: "Palestinian Source Reveals To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israeli Plan To Occupy New Arab Territories"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed Palestinian sources have emphasized that Israel intends to occupy more Arab territories under a strategic plan prepared by Israeli experts. It was discussed at the Defense Ministry before being referred to Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens. It was also discussed by intelligence organs.

The sources said that the plan was presented in the form of a 20-page memorandum, specifying Israel's aims at the current stage. The most important of these aims is securing the sources of internal and external security, gaining world public opinion's support, preserving the strength of U.S. and European relations with Israel, deterring the Arab states from contemplating an attack on any Israeli target, and liquidating the pockets of Arab, especially Palestinian, resistance, which prevent Israel from realizing its security aims.

The plan also includes settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories by preparing the international community to recognize Israel's full control of these territories and to regard them part of Israel's territory. The objective is also to exert pressure on international forces to accept Israeli peace proposals. Finally, the plan talks of preparing for the total elemination of what it terms "acts of unrest." [passage omitted]

The sources added in their statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Arab diplomacy has had some successes in winning over international voices which Israel has failed to secure to support Israeli security considerations in the occupied territories. This is why the sources believe that there is likely to be a serious Israeli military plan to occupy new Arab territories.

The sources also said that the memorandum which includes the plan sees that achieving the aforesaid aims would turn the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict—that is with regard to the Arab, Palestinian, and international demands for finding a solution to the Palestinians' problem in the occupied territories—into a discussion of the issue of withdrawal from the new Arab territories. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian source concluded his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by saying that the memorandum is still before Shamir, that reports indicate some further details could be added to it, and that Israeli Defense Ministry experts are enthusiastic about it.

Reports also say an expert on strategy discussed the memorandum in the United States recently, but cautiously, and that there are U.S. hints of agreement to what is mentioned in the memorandum.

The reports said that these hints do not mean open and direct agreement to the memorandum, but agreement to reducing Arab and international pressures on Israel as a result of its position on peace efforts. This is because such pressures have embarrassed the United States in front of international and Arab forces on many occasions.

Settler Brochure Instructs on Weapons, Revenge

TA0407093990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Jul 90 p 23

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Summary] "A brochure providing instructions on revenge and retaliation against Arabs is currently being disseminated in Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The brochure, which in fact calls for the establishment of a massive underground in the territories, is usually thrown into settlers' mailboxes at night."

Although the number of copies distributed so far is unknown, "YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned from police sources that the police have launched an inquiry into the identity of distributors of the brochure. The police take a grave view of the booklet's potential to encourage violence and illegal firearm attacks, and of its call for the establishment of a new underground."

"The brochure, which was photocopied from either a typewritten or computer-printed original, is called

'Being a Free Nation in Our Country—Active Defense.' The following slogans appear under the title: 'We have a right to lead a peaceful life in Eretz Yisra'el! We have a right to preventive self-defense from Arab killers! No one has the right to keep this from us!'

"The brochure's introduction includes the following: 'We, a multi-field, much-experienced team, have gathered in order to instruct the settlers on how to act in self-defense. We were greatly assisted by the instruction booklets of the Hagana [pre-state Jewish underground] and its information service, which were printed illicitly during British rule.'"

"The brochure comprises an introduction and nine chapters: weapons and ammunition; concealing gunfire traces; how not to be caught; behavior during investigation and arrest; behavior during a search of your home; uncovering and dealing with informers; public activities when not under fire; a sample event; and summary." The latter urges recipients to make numerous photocopies of the booklet and to distribute it to additional settlers.

"The following are 'selected excerpts' from the brochure:

"'You will find it advisable to equip yourself with an assault rifle, such as a sawed-off M-16 or Galil. You should take a weapon from both your settlement's arsenal and from your army unit...'" Amassing as much ammunition as possible is advisable.

Embarking on an "'initiated operation,'" one must practice in advance and beware of the Army, the Arabs, and one's wife. "'If you encounter a barricade and are forced to shoot and hit, do not report either to civilians or the Army.'

"The brochure urges making the defense minister's life hell. 'Harass his wife and children. They are making a nice living off his job—so make them, too, pressure him.'

"The brochure instructs the settler on ways to detect and deal with informers and collaborators with the authorities, stating that once one is uncovered, he should be pressured into leaving the settlement."

"The anonymous brochure was met with sharp, wall-to-wall condemnation," by the chairman of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Council chairman, Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Tzidon, NRP [National Religious Party] MK Hanan Porat, Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen, MAPAM [United Workers Party] MK Ya'ir Tzaban, and CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Ran Kohen.

Opposed by Knesset Left, Right

TA0407182090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Left and right Knesset members today spoke out against an underground Jewish pamphlet that calls for an armed confrontation with Palestinians. Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom waved the document from the Knesset podium as he called for a debate on the intifadah, a motion that was narrowly defeated. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] The seven-page guide referred to this morning by Labor's Hagay Merom does not include the name of any person or group, but, citing the right to, quote, be a free nation in our land, the guide includes chapters on how to use arms and ammunition, to cover up the evidence, how not to be caught, and if you are, how to act while being arrested and searched. Knesset members of all shades have spoken out against the document. But, in his response, Defense Minister Moshe Arens did not refer to the guide, nor did he respond to Merom's question if he had a plan to quell the intifadah. Instead, Arens told Merom to go to former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin if he had any questions on how the 30 months of the intifadah have been handled. Rabin—a man, said Arens, who is now vying for the Labor Party leadership; the latest of many Likud references recently in the house to the Labor Party struggle.

Merom's call for a debate on the intifadah in the plenum was narrowly defeated, as left and right wingers rushed their Knesset members to their seats to vote. A second recommendation that the issue be taken up on the committee level was also narrow rejected. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Leaders of the settlement movement have dismissed the pamphlet as the work of a fringe element. The Peace Now Movement says it is indicative of the logic of those planning a civil guard for settlers in the territories.

Husayn Congratulates Bush on Independence Day

JN0307190590 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President George Bush on his country's independence day. His majesty conveyed in his name and in the name of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan best wishes and most sincere congratulations to President Bush and the American people. His majesty expressed the hope that the United States would always support other people's legitimate struggle for their rights.

Two Jordanians Among Tunnel Victims

JN0407115090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir said in a telephone call from Saudi Arabia that Jordanian pilgrims to the holy places are all well and they are now getting ready to head for Medina.

He said Saudi authorities are rendering all possible facilities and services to the pilgrims. The awqaf minister said two Jordanian pilgrims died in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel accident on Monday [2 Jul]. Dr. al-Faqir is in Saudi Arabia as head of Jordan's pilgrimage mission to the holy places.

Shamir Seen Seeking U.S. Support Against Europe

JN0207085390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel Defies the European Community"]

[Text] It is no secret that there is some kind of unanimity at international forums that the Middle East is facing dangerous prospects as a result of the stumbling peace process, growing Israeli radicalism, and Israel's intensive repressive measures behind the occupation walls. This feeling is clear from the final communique issued by the European summiteers a few days ago.

It seems that Israel is now defying the European communique on the basis of a joint U.S.-Israel stance toward Middle East peace. This is evident from Shamir's letter to Bush asking him to take just such a position. It is no secret that the purpose of this is to prevent the EC from assuming its responsibility toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and from playing any real role in this respect.

It is noteworthy that the joint position Shamir is trying to formulate with Bush goes no further than the earlier Israeli refusal to give the Palestinians anything more than autonomy, to allow the PLO a role in the peace process, and to permit Arab Jerusalem residents to be represented in any Palestinian delegation!! This means that Shamir wants Israel's "No's" to be backed by American "No's" through an openly declared stand.

Needless to say, this would increase the prospects of the danger menacing the region. It would also move the United States from a state of lost credibility to a state of open hostility and involvement in imposing Israeli hegemony on the Arabs, especially since the Israeli aggressors' policy is built on remaining in the occupied Arab territory, expanding settlement, and realizing the dream of Greater Israel.

Therefore, it becomes obvious that Shamir's letter to Bush is meant to defy the Dublin summit communique. If this letter succeeds in building the joint stand sought by Shamir, it will mean that the United States will officially join the Israeli aggressors. It is no secret that a change from support in practice to official support for the occupiers would force the Arabs to face this stand with a true pan-Arab one so they can defend themselves and their future generations.

U.S., Israel No 'Intention' To Advance Peace

JN0107120290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Mr. President, Please Stop Beating Around the Bush"]

[Text] Funny the way some American minds work; and President George Bush appears to take the cake this time around with his pledge that he would bring about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the basis of a letter he has received from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Of course, one cannot rule out the possibility that Bush is one of those magic wizards who can produce water from an empty bottle (even at that it is a stage illusion). But, as things stand now, the letter of Shamir to Bush resembles a tiny little empty vial and the U.S. President is promising an ocean out of it. For there is nothing in the way of meeting Palestinian aspirations in what the Israeli prime minister has in mind. No independent Palestinian state, no negotiations with the PLO, no peace conference, no withdrawal from the occupied territories, no compromise over Israel's claim to "Judea and Samaria," increased settlements and an iron-fist policy to crush the intifadah [sentence as published]. To cap everything, Bush has already slammed the door on the U.S.-PLO dialogue, which could have served as some form of conduit to keep the peace process alive.

For all practical purposes, it is evident that neither the U.S. Administration nor the hardline government of Shamir have any intention of introducing a feasible formula to advance efforts for just, comprehensive and equitable peace in the Middle East. If anything, the purpose of the so-called exchange of letters is only to pull an American-tailored veil over further stone-walling by Israel.

Come down to earth, Mr. Bush. No matter how eloquently you put it, the fact remains that the U.S. Administration cannot possibly hope to build anything from the basic fibres of what Israel is willing to offer in return for peace with the Arabs. Yes, you can indeed go back to the drawing board and start all over again, but please ensure

that the drawing board is not Israeli-supplied and accept that no matter what happens you have no choice but to accept to recognise and guarantee the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians, including their right to independent statehood, if you are serious about finding peace in the Middle East.

Until then, Mr. President, please stop beating around the bush.

Commentary on U.S. Position, Pressure on Israel

JN3006084690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 90 First Edition pp 1, 15

[Editorial:"The Alleged Disagreement Between Washington and Tel Aviv!!"]

[Text] During a meeting of the Jewish Agency in occupied Jerusalem, Yitzhaq Shamir said the main disagreement between Tel Aviv and Washington revolves around the Arab states' position on the existence of Israel, as he sees these states' support for the PLO as evidence that they do not recognize the establishment of Israel!

Shamir's response to the U.S. President's message was in line with this statement and was dealt with cautiously in Washington, because Shamir did not drop his rejection of the participation of Palestinians from occupied Arab Jerusalem or those deported from the occupied territories in the talks. Thus, Shamir's response to President Bush's message rejecting two major points in Secretary of State James Baker's peace plan is a reply to Baker's angry remarks before the U.S. Congress. The United States still says that it will not pressure Israel.

It seems that during 25 years of Arab-Israeli conflict we have never tried to get a sincere and realistic response from the United States over whether it supports the Israel that existed prior to June 1967 or the present Israel—no matter its aggressive, expansionist policy in the region.

Rhetorical statements to the Arab states while supporting Israel, providing it with military, economic, and political aid, and enabling it to expand and to continue its occupation of Arab territories requires that those in the Arab world who still believe that the solution is in Washington be very much pitied!!

We do not know how long the U.S. will continue to deceive the Arab nation, or how long we will continue to deceive ourselves in the maelstrom of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is motivated by an American monopoly of power despite the Arabs and the entire international society!

It is evident that Israel is ready to negotiate with figures from the occupied Arab territories of whom it approves or, rather, that it chooses, so that they will be perjurers at the burial of the Palestinian question after Palestine is liquidated as a homeland and as a people.

No matter how U.S. diplomacy tries to mislead or deceive us, it will not be able to enable any Palestinian from inside or outside the occupied territories to participate in the negotiations unless he has the Israeli "character" that allows him to sit at the "negotiation table!"

This is because the U.S. will not pressure Israel. The Arab nation has to understand this clear language which has been declared umpteenth times by successive U.S. administrations.

Therefore, in our opinion Arab interests lie in internationalizing the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, because keeping them under the U.S. mercies will only mean keeping the PLO under Zionist hegemony.

Moreover, the only option facing the Arab nation is to depend on intrinsic Arab capabilities and to crystallize a unified Arab will capable of tackling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Correction to Soviet Ambassador News Conference

JN2906132890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Soviet Ambassador Holds News conference," subheaded "Dialogue, Israel, Emigration," published in the 29 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 30:

Column one, first graf, first sentence should read...political leaders in the Soviet Union and Jordan agree in their views...(supplying missing words "and Jordon")

Column one, fourth graf, first sentence should read...expense of the Palestinian people, and instead will follow international laws and norms. He said that by seeking...(rewording for clarity)

Groups Condemn Saudi Rulers on Pilgrim Deaths

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli

LD0307200390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, director general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah, in an exclusive interview with the representative of the Voice and Vision in Beirut on the occasion of the Disavowal of Pagans Week, honored the memory of the martyrs of the bloody Friday tragedy of holy Mecca and condemned the Saudi regime for having stopped the pilgrimage of the pilgrims of the House of God. He said: The children of Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—were deprived of the hajj by the Al-Sa'ud, because, on the order of the Almighty, during the period of the pilgrimage, they were shunning the infidels and were shouting: God is Greatest.

In another part of his remarks, he said: Muslims will no longer tolerate being under the domination of the enemies of Islam and the Koran and they will no longer keep silent in the face of holy Mecca and Medina being controlled by a criminal group. In conclusion, he emphasized the need for Muslim unity in the face of global arrogance and addressed the Islamic nation saying: Revolt, just as the Prophet revolted; arise and, under the leadership of his excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Vali-e Amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims, and drawing inspiration from the line of the imam—may his soul be sanctified—go forward to the liberation of all Islamic territories.

Further From Hizballah

NC0307191090 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 3 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist group Hizballah (Party of God) on Tuesday called for the punishment of the "criminal leaders" of Saudi Arabia for the death of several hundred Muslim pilgrims there on Monday.

"We strongly fear that this event was only an element in a wider plot by the Saudi regime to justify its arbitrary measures against Muslims," a statement by Hizballah said.

It urged Muslims worldwide to condemn the Saudi Government because of "the failure by the Saudi regime to administer the hajj and the Islamic holy sites."

Hizballah reiterated that the custodianship of Mecca and Medina, Islam's first and second holiest sites respectively, should be withdrawn from Saudi Arabia and "entrusted to a higher Islamic body."

"We denounce once again the criminals of the (Saudi ruling) Saud family, (who are) servants of America and Israel, and underline the need to punish them for their crimes against the guests of the holy Islamic sites," the statement said.

Doctors in Saudi Arabia said that at least 700 Muslim pilgrims suffocated or were trampled to death in a tunnel near Mecca on Monday as they were heading for Mina, another holy site, as part of their annual hajj (pilgrimage).

The deaths, which one Arab diplomatic source in the Saudi capital has estimated at as many as 2,000, were caused when panic-stricken pilgrims tried to escape from the tunnel after the air-conditioning system failed, according to many witnesses.

King Fahd—whose country had set quotas for pilgrims in accordance with the Organisation of Islamic Conference after bloody disturbances involving Iranian pilgrims in 1987 in which 402 people were killed—blamed the tragedy on the failure by pilgrims to observe safety instructions.

Radio on Saudi 'Conspiracy'

NC0407082490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] What happened to pilgrims of the holy shrine last Monday reminds us of the Saudi regime forces' horrible massacre of the peaceful pilgrims on charges that they disowned polytheists and shouted: Death to America and Israel.

In any case, the resolutions regarding pilgrimage, especially the limitation of the number of pilgrims according to the ratio of 1 pilgrim to each 1,000 people, reveal a Wahabi [Saudi regime] plot, devised by American intelligence, to turn the pilgrimage into a recreation tour, during which invocations will be made for a lengthy life for Saudi rulers because of their great concern for the two holy mosques.

This conspiracy against the pilgrimage has taken shape after the late Imam Khomeyni, may his secret be sanctified, spelled out the true meaning of this ritual and explained to the Muslims that it aims to serve the Islamic principles which place the basic struggle against arrogance at the top of the priorities.

Thus, we do not rule out the possibility that the pilgrimage in the coming years will be limited to a few hundred people who will go for trade and business and to exalt al-Saud and seek the blessing of their riyals.

Yesterday's event may cause fear in those wanting to perform a pilgrimage in the future, which means the principle of pilgrimage as a whole is undermined.

Pakistani Sunnis Comment

LD0407174290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The leader of the Pakistani Sunnis said that the Saudi regime was responsible for the Mina tunnel's deadly incident. Muwlana Munir Ahmad Madani this evening in an interview with the IRNA correspondent said: The death of over 1,400 pilgrims of the holy House

of God, shows once more the incapability of the Saudi rulers [to manage hajj affairs]

The famous Pakistani Sunni clergymen also stressed: Mecca is the Muslims' great congress place and it should be managed by representatives from all over the world.

The Lebanon's revolutionary movement of Hizballah also announced today that the Saudi regime's shooting caused the death of a large number of the pilgrims of the House of God in the tunnel between Mecca and Mina. According to the report of the United Press, the radio of Lebanon's revolutionary movement of Hizballah announced the news and added: Following Muslim pilgrims' rallies, held inside the Mina Tunnel, the Saudi regime trapped the pilgrims inside the tunnel and suppressed the demonstrations resorting to shooting and throwing smoke bombs.

Al-Hirawi Sends Condolences to King Fahd

NC0407121390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Jul90

[Text of cable sent by President al-Hirawi to Saudi King Fahd on 4 July—read by announcer]

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may God preserve you: With much grief we have learned about the Mina Tunnel accident which has claimed martyrs performing the pilgrimage rites. While sharing your sad feelings, we implore God Almighty to have his great mercy on the victims, grant patience and solace to their relatives, and preserve and guard you, and lead your path to continue the work in the service of the Arabs and Muslims.

We avail ourselves of the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice and self-denial, to express our hope of overcoming, through joint Arab action, the difficulties confronting the nation and of achieving a relaxation soon. We also thank Your Majesty for your kind gesture to Lebanon and its people in your address to the world on the morning of the feast and your assertion to continue your work and efforts for Lebanon to regain its unity, security, and sovereignty and to help it realize the Lebanese people's security and defensive and requirements. May God grant you success and protect you. With the best wishes and fraternal feelings. Your brother Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Lebanese Republic.

Al-Huss Returns From Saudi Arabia 4 Jul

NC0407112890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi from Riyadh today and briefed him on the outcome of his meetings with Saudi officials, foremost King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Prime Minister al-Huss returned to Beirut at noon today.

Ja'Ja' Begins Indirect Talks With Syria

PM0407151190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Dialogue Via Mediation Between Damascus and Ja'ja'"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Beirut have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a dialogue via intermediaries has started between Damascus and the Lebanese Forces, whose leader is Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. But they ruled out any rapid results from that dialogue.

The sources said that Lebanese intermediaries have started a process of conveying viewpoints which is still in its early stages. The sources believe that the dialogue could prove difficult and could take some time, especially as Damascus cited the need for it to receive a written overview of the Forces' position on the questions raised at the Lebanese level and on the regional effects of the crisis.

The sources believe that the initiation of the dialogue between Syria and the Forces could facilitate the task of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who has for months sought to include Ja'ja' or anyone representing him in the government.

The sources said that recent developments have created two tendencies inside the Lebanese regime: The first calls for including Ja'ja' in the government in order to force General Michel 'Awn to step down and withdraw, whereas the other calls for a settlement with 'Awn and Ja'ja' at the same time.

Supporters of the second view believe that the attempt to remove 'Awn could secure for him the sympathy of groups which have started to move away from him, and would not resolve the problem of the five Lebanese Army brigades which are still loyal to him.

The sources noted that the increasing talk about an imminent reshuffle in Dr. Salim al-Huss' government has recently increased disagreements among some ministers, forcing President Ilyas al-Hirawi to intervene to prevent a crisis inside the government itself. [passage omitted]

Syrian Minister Brings Franjiyah Al-Asad Message

NC0307152890 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jul 90

[All names and titles as heard]

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah received a letter from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon. General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, conveyed the letter to him. Gen. Talas arrived at Ihdin Palace at 1400 today, leading a high-ranking Syrian military delegation. The delegation includes Gen. 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; Maj. Gen. Sulayman al-Hasan, commander of the Syrian forces in north Lebanon; Brigadier General

Salim Asad, commander of the Syrian naval forces in north Lebanon; Brig. Gen. Mu'alla al-Mu'alla, commander of the artillery corps; and Colonel Muhammad al-Sha'ar, chief of Syrian intelligence in the North.

A meeting took place which Sulayman Tony Franjiyah and [Public Health and Tourism] Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Rasi attended. The current situation and developments in Lebanon and the Arab world were reviewed during the meeting.

Asks for High Combat Readiness

JN0307201290 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] On the second day of 'Id al-Adha and upon instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, paid an inspection visit to one of our military formations in fraternal Lebanon. He was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces.

Gen. Talas was received upon arrival by the commander of the formation and a number of officers. Gen. Talas met with the fighters during a big speech rally amid slogans in praise of the party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. Gen. Talas spoke at the rally about regional events, Palestinian developments, and the honorable role of our brave Armed Forces in defending Lebanese territory and people.

In his speech, Gen. Talas conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the fighters and his good wishes for success in their noble, humanitarian, and pan-Arab tasks, which they are carrying out in Lebanon with honor and sincerity in defense of Lebanon and the Arab nation's dignity and honor.

Reviewing regional events, Gen. Talas asserted that al-Asad's Syria is pursuing a correct pan-Arab path, benefiting from past experience, and is mobilizing its resources to ensure the realization of strategic parity with the Zionist enemy in terms of solidarity, strength, and sacrifice. Syria, he added, calls on the Arabs to mobilize their resources because the Arab future is full of dire prospects as a result of the imperialist and Zionist policy in the region and unlimited support for Israel and because of the moves to prepare the atmosphere for defeatist and capitulationist parties to offer concessions to Israel and condone occupation, immigration, and the confiscation of rights.

Talas explained the situation in fraternal Lebanon to the fighters, asserting that all suspect attempts to circumvent the al-Ta'if accord and bring security conditions to a head will fail because they are based on erroneous calculations in the first place. The only solution is consensus, through an objective vision, on the implementation of all the provisions of the national reconciliation charter, which has been proven to be the only formula to solve the crisis and save Lebanon from the state of dismemberment and internecine fighting and from the imperialist-Zionist plots. Talas also declared that Syria supports Lebanese legitimacy to promote the national reconciliation march and strengthen the constitutional institutions and thus restore calm and stability to all Lebanese areas and liberate the south from the hated Zionist occupation.

Talas asked the fighters to remain at the highest level of combat readiness because the danger is tremendous, threatening the present and the future of the Arab nation. He added that the question of being close or distant does not arise because the threat overwhelms the whole Arab homeland, and Israel is the enemy of all the Arabs. It harbors evil intentions toward them because it wants to realize its aims at their expense everywhere. He said the coming events, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, seem more dangerous and deadly; those who do not prepare themselves will be killed by the approaching savage beasts. But with God's help and the will of the people, we will not be among those who perish.

Concluding his speech, Talas renewed the pledge of sincerity and loyalty to the march of the leader and struggler Hafiz al-Asad, and of determination to remain at the highest degree of combat readiness to deter aggression and successfully wage battles of victory and liberation.

Following his speech, Gen. Talas was given a warm and cordial sendoff.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Peace, Reforms in Interview

Affirms Role of Al-Ta'if

NC0407072990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that the al-Ta'if accord represents the road to peace, if the Lebanese know how to utilize it. He noted that General 'Awn is still a basic obstacle to unification of Lebanon.

In a press interview to be published soon, President al-Hirawi called for radical reforms in the political system and urged the improvement of political, economic, and security ties with Syria.

He criticized the politicians' failure since 1943 to build a modern state. He said that the formal and not the actual posts necessary for a baiance in the regime, including the presidency, have not produced security guarantees, nor have they they secured anything for the Christians or built the impregnable barrier which they believed will protect them.

Warns Against Emigration

NC0407073390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Excerpt] In a press interview, President Ilyas al-Hirawi calls for improving the political, economic, and security

relations with Syria, beginning with security. He criticized a small Lebanese group which is influenced by what happens in Israel, which has its goals in the region, saying that it is clear that a stable situation in Lebanon is not among these goals. He warned against the emigration which bleeds the Lebanese society and referred to the demographic change in Lebanon as a result of this bleeding. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Receives Lebanese Front Delegation

NC0307184690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Excerpts] In al-Mukhtarah today, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt received a Lebanese Front delegation composed of Jubran Tuwayni, Khalil Abu-Jawdah, Habib Harb, and Nabil Brax. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Junblatt said: The atmosphere was good. Undoubtedly, the ideas submitted by the Lebanese Front are new and can be studied and used. They could also comprise a new chapter in history and help end the Lebanese war. We hope this step will be followed by others. [passage omitted]

Asked what had been discussed at the meeting, Junblatt said: We discussed all matters dealing with ways of ending the Lebanese crisis and consolidating peace in Lebanon. We discussed all matters that might help the citizen to hold on to the hope that this country is for everyone and that Lebanon will remain united, sovereign, and independent. [passage omitted]

Junblatt was told that the Lebanese Front proposes elections as a solution to the crisis. Asked if he supports such elections, he stated: I believe that there must be elections to give the new generation the opportunity to express its political and non-political aspirations. But how? This is the question. How, while part of the South is occupied by Israel? How, while certain parties and the gun control free opinion in some areas? Give me an idea as to how and we are ready. [passage omitted]

Junblatt was asked: You and General 'Awn have called for change. What sort of change? Junblatt said: The general has his own method where change is concerned and we have our own method. If we could unify the method this would be better. As for change, it is a question of changing this rotten political system and changing the formula in order to create a modern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Jubran Tuwayni spoke. He said: We as Lebanese Front members have good ideas. We explained to Walid Bey that there can be no single Lebanon without a real agreement between Druze and Christians. We support a single Lebanon. Such an agreement is a demand and a necessity. Unfortunately, we inherited a file full of massacres and bloodshed. We do not want our sons to inherit this file. [passage omitted] The most important thing is that we have begun a real and serious dialogue. We support Walid Bey's ideas with regard to the need to take into consideration all the existing regional powers, especially Syria. We also support Walid Bey in rejecting the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon and in rejecting the current PLO policy in Lebanon, especially in Iqlim al-Kharrub. We also support the amendment of the al-Ta'if accord and the taking into consideration of the views of all the parties which did not participate in the al-Ta'if accord. [passage omitted]

Higher Islamic Shiite Council Leader Interviewed

PM2906144090 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jun 90 pp 18, 19, 21

[Unattributed interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] What is your opinion of the steps taken by the Syrian Arab forces in West Beirut to close militia offices and confiscate arms from homes? Do they represent the start of a security plan or a plan to disengage the Amal Movement and Hizballah?

[Shams-al-Din] Everyone can see the distress and dangers which Beirut and its [southern] suburb are suffering as a result of the militias and their wars. Beirut has suffered this for a long time. It has gone through many experiences: Lebanese-Palestinian, Lebanese-Lebanese, and sectarian. They have all resulted in the destruction of buildings, especially at the hands of the militias in the suburb and West Beirut. The security situation has exploded in a worrying way in recent weeks, to the extent that we can no longer remain silent about it. Any disruption of security is unacceptable. We have received appeals for help from citizens, schools, universities, and other establishments. Syrian officials too have received such appeals and responded quickly. Here I must register my profound appreciation of the swift and effective response as a result of which citizens are now enjoying a high level of security, in contrast with the situation before these measures were taken. I also record my thanks to the Syrian leadership, to President al-Asad, and to Syrian officers. But we cannot call what happened and is happening a plan. Perhaps it is a preparation, because a security plan is supposed to be a joint action between Lebanese security forces and the Syrian Army. However, I cannot regard what has happened as a preparation for the security plan which we want to implement speedily and which we see no reason for delaying. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] There are reports about a meeting to be held between the [Amal] movement and the [Hizballah] party in Damascus under Syrian-Iranian auspices. Do you expect their potential agreement to be similar to the previous ones, or will it be a serious one this time? Will it include the Iqlim al-Tuffah problem?

[Shams-al-Din] I have no information about such an a meeting. I heard some news from the media, but the report has not been confirmed. I expect the report to prove groundless. Nevertheless, we are working to help the two

sides reach a solution to their problem. We do not want the problem to continue. We believe that it can be resolved if some abandon their power ambitions. We believe that there are many areas for positive and beneficial common action between them. We also believe that the differences between them will be reduced if some ideas are eliminated. We are working with both sides in this regard and are willing to continue working with them until they reach a reconciliation formula. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] In view of U.S. extremism with the Israeli side and the Palestinian warning in this regard, how would you assess the Palestinian intifadah, and how can the Middle East problem be resolved?

[Shams-al-Din] In fact U.S. extremism has not surprised us, and will not surprise us. Most regrettably, the Americans are always extremist and unjust—quantitatively and qualitatively—when it comes to an aggression committed by Israel. There has never been any U.S. moderation that would enable us to speak in terms of U.S. extremism. The U.S. position is always biased toward Israel. It supports Zionism against the Palestinian people and the Arabs in general, at least with regard to the Palestinian issue. So this position must be confronted with appropriate determination and a practical spirit, not with ambiguous political speeches. I have said in the past that the Arab summit has achieved nothing in that regard. [passage omitted]

The ideal method is embodied in two cases: The first is suffering, and this, thank God, is growing and prospering through the intifadah, which is the only effective method applied by the Palestinian people to confront the Israeli occupation and U.S. bias in particular and Western bias in general. The second case is armed resistance in Southern Lebanon by resistance movements, Islamists, leftists and nonleftists, and all the forces fighting the Israelis with arms. This, despite the fact that the Lebanese resistance is suffering a real and painful illness as a result of the differences between Amal and Hizballah. But as for levels other than the intifadah, so far there has been no practical confrontation of the new Zionist invasion and Western bias toward Zionism. We propose that the regimes draw up a new working mechanism. It seems that the burden now lies on the nation's shoulders. We are working to involve the nation—not only the regime—as a principal element in the struggle. [passage omitted]

Israeli Reinforcements, Strike Reported in Sidon

NC0407095390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Clashes involving machine guns and rockets are taking place between the positions of the Popular Nasirite Organization and Lahd militia on the Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir-Kafr Falus combat lines. The militia closed the Rimat crossing linking Sidon with Jazzin this morning. They threatened to fire at cars and pedestrians, with the exception of Red Cross cars and officials, who try to cross.

According to people arriving from the occupied strip, several Israeli convoys consisting of about 45 jeeps and some senior officials crossed the border Metulla gate to the occupied strip area. An Israeli force raided Shab'a township and searched most of its houses. They detained one of the inhabitants and took him to an unknown destination.

A general strike was staged in Sidon city today to denounce the assassination of a member of the security police of the Popular Nasirite Organization in an ambush on the northern approach to the city the day before yesterday. The strike was staged amid resentment felt toward the people and leaders of this incident, which constitutes an attempt to sow sedition in the capital of the south.

Guarded calm, marred by the exchange of sniper fire between the positions of Amal movement and Hizballah, prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Mubarak Consultations With Al-Asad Reported

PM2806132890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Ambassador Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egyptian-Syrian Overviews To Resolve Arab and International Issues"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Syrian ambassador in Cairo, 'Isa Darwish, has emphasized that contacts and consultations are continuing between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to draw up overviews for resolving all the issues arising at the Arab and international levels.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Syrian ambassador pointed out that these consultations will culminate in a visit by President Hafiz al-Asad to Egypt soon.

He pointed out that the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue between Washington and the PLO affects the remaining hope of achieving peace and provides Israel with pretexts for destroying the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Darwish expressed his country's regret at the announcement of the decision at a time when the Arab states are seeking to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East by convening an international peace conference.

Al-Shar' Meets on Tripartite Committee Movement

LD2906120690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus 29 Jun (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and Lakhdar Brahimi, representative of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee, arrived in Damascus at noon today.

On their arrival, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Lakhdar Brahimi held a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during which they discussed the movement of the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee during the coming stage.

Stronger International Stand Against Israel Urged

JN0307073290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline "The Zionist Aggression and the International Stand," AL-BA'TH says: The Middle East region is currently passing through one of the most serious political and military stages in our contemporary history. The Zionist entity is beating the drums of war and preparing to drag the region, and consequently the world, to the brink of a military confrontation, the consequences of which are unknown. The new Zionist government under Shamir has been formed in accordance with a clear-cut program aimed at foiling international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem through an international conference, and at paving the way for absorbing and settling hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews who have already arrived or are due to arrive next year.

After reviewing Israel's practices and stands that are supported by the United States, AL-BA'TH says: The concern raised by the Zionist entity's policy in the world, most recently expressed by the recent EC statement, proves that the international community, including Israel's friends and allies, have begun to realize the extent of danger posed by Israel's stands toward security and stability in the Middle East region and the whole world. This realization necessitates that the entire world adopt a more decisive and resolute stand against Israel and its ambitions in a way that would force it to respond to the desire of the international community and to defuse the explosive situation in the region.

Al-Asad Sends Bush July 4th Congratulations

JN0307191490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jul (INA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of American independence day. He conveyed his most heartfelt greetings and good wishes to President Bush and the American people. He also expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will be successful in producing mutual benefit for both the Syrian and American people to serve the cause of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Al-Asad Cables Condolences to Saudi King

JN0407181890 Damascus Television Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has cabled his sympathies to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the unfortunate accident which has caused the loss of over 1,400 lives among pilgrims in Mecca. In the name of the people of the Syrian Arab Republic and mine, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims.

Afghanistan

Party Congress Adopts Resolution on Duties

LD3006200890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Resolution adopted by the Second People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Congress in Kabul on 28 June]

[Text] Resolution of the party's second congress about immediate duties of the Homeland Party concerning the acceleration of national reconciliation process and move to the new condition of work and reconstruction:

In consideration of the contents of the Central Committees report, careful assessment of the present situation and immediate duties of the parties in achieving the objectives put forward, the congress approves the following:

1. In the sphere of party reconstruction: Fundamental reconstruction in all areas of party life including organizational, theoretic, manner of activities in conformity with the action program, charter and the new political policy of the party, must be resolutely continued. For this purpose immediate work must begin for the realization of the new charter on the daily life of the party. The Central Council has to draft instructions parallel to the charter and to implement them as soon as possible. Necessary measures should be taken for the [word indistinct] of unified party documents. The Central Council must relentlessly follow the continuing broadening of democracy and realization of the principle of elections in all party positions. The level of discipline and responsibility of the party members must be enhanced and all party members must be attracted to active participation in party measures. The Central Council, provincial councils, and local party council, must decisively abandon the old method of activities stemming for the time of the party monopoly in government authority as well as change of party duties to administrative duties. [as heard]

The systematic information work, together with various categories of our compatriots, for the purpose of attracting them as members and supporters of the party, must be advanced. The consolidation of organic unity of the party must be at the center of attention of the Central Council, on the basis of perception, understanding, and joint action for the realization of the constitution, charter, and political policy of the Homeland Party. The party councils and organizations must familiarize all party members with the contents of constitution and charter of the party and through them a broad propaganda work must be launched among the people for attracting their further support for (?humane) and peace-seeking policy of the party. For this purpose effective use must be made from party press and other means and ways of propaganda work. Visual party propaganda must be conformed with the contents of new policy. The councils, organizations, and party commissions' offices, must be cleared of decorations amd publications which are against the spirit of the constitution and new charter of the party.

2. Regarding the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation:

The fundamental directions of the policy of national reconciliation under the present stage are the following directions:

The solution of the present and future issues of Afghanistan by political means in giving priority to the national interest and nationwide peace over the party, strata, and group interests.

Struggle for securing democracy in the life of society in such a way that no force in social groups can be exempted from participation by equal rights. [Word indistinct] the right for legal political activities [should be given] to all parties and political organizations on the basis of multiparty system.

The promotion of broad political dialogue with all belligerent forces in the war, including the forces stationed in Peshawar and Tehran, supporters of the former king and Afghan intelligentsia living in the West, representatives of the refugees in particular commanders inside the country, for seeking ways to end the present bloody (?war) and to achieve broad understanding on the basis of national reconciliation.

The attempt to consolidate political pluralism, seek advantageous and possible coalitions for the creation of effective sovereignty capable of restoring nationwide peace by free and democratic election.

Struggle for the consolidation of legality in the country and backing the growth of multi-economy sectors.

Struggle to secure unity of action of all forces supporting peace with their active common participation in the socioeconomic life of the country.

Assist the honorable return and rehabilitation of the refugees in the country.

The Central Council must embark on continuous and effective work for the realization of the fundamental phases of the above points and efforts must be made for the attraction of all sound national forces for the realization of the above objectives.

3. In the area of consolidation of links with the people:

The Central Council, provincial and local councils, party committees and every member of the party must put work among the people and consolidation of party relations with them at the center of their thinking and action. The Homeland Party is the servant of all the people of our homeland and its members, whether in mosques or takyas [temporary structures in which plays depicting lives of the imams are put on], whether in fields or factories, whether in schools or religious schools, and, in one word, should be with the people everywhere, listen to their views and learn for them, and struggle alongside them for the progress of our beloved homeland. The party members must establish their equal rights and relations with social organizations enjoying

specific awareness and formations. They should struggle alongside them for the realization of common objectives: Struggle for the creation of broad front of supporters of peace and reconstruction is part of the immediate duties of the party. The Central Council must further accelerate this process.

4. In the area of party participation in government authority:

Participation in free elections under international supervision for which the party is of the main initiators and supporters, is being further transformed into an urgent practical duty. The Central Council must mobilize all party organizations for preparation in taking active part in the election. The unity and cohesion of the party and consolidation of its links with the people, as well as securing and strengthening legality in all levels, enhancing the role of party members in the state and government organs for serving the people and decisive struggle against negative phenomenon in the administration such as bureaucracy, bribery, embezzlement and injustice, are among important conditions for securing success in the election.

5. Defense of the homeland and national values in an Islamic, national and humane duty of every member of Homeland Party. The Central Council, simultaneously with efforts for ending the war in the country, must extend all necessary assistance for strengthening defense capability of the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and civil defense system. The party members in continuation of their courageous struggle, along side other brave compatriots, must struggle decisively up to the limit of sacrifice, in particular during the period of independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, against every aggression and armed intervention in the internal affairs of our country by foreigners and their protected extremists.

The congress rejects every effort to impose sovereignty by force and military conspiracy; and decisively denounces the treacherous striving of the organizers of the failed coup d'etat of 4 March 1990, which was launched, in collaboration with militarists of Pakistan and their other foreign supporters, against the Republic of Afghanistan and policy of national reconciliation.

6. In the social field: The Central Council, provincial, and local councils and party organizations are bound to put struggle for improving work conditions in living standards of workers, teachers, civil servants, and poor strata, at the center of their attention and in their action they should always remember the following point:

The Central Council and party organizations must pay special attention to youths training with the spirit of patriotism, defense of the people's interests, observation of national and Islamic rituals, active participation in social life, acquiring knowledge and following social morality. The youths are the future of the country and our party must always consider this task in its sociopolitical activity.

Women's participation in social life and defending their rights, as half of the population of the country, enjoys enormous importance. The party, in defending simultaneously women's rights, must work for enhancing their role in socioeconomic life. Active work with intelligentsia, in consideration of their enormous role in the sociopolitical life, must be under the party's special attention. All possible attention should be paid to the creation of advantageous relations with intellectual strata of the society, to attract their support for the peace-seeking policy of the party as well as defending their class rights.

The struggle for national unity and fraternity of nationalities, tribes and clans of the country, is forming our historic duty. The party supports active participation without discrimination and equal rights of all representatives of nationalities tribes and clans of the country in central and local administration, and struggles for self-awareness of the nation and national awareness and consolidation of fraternal links of the nationalities, tribes and clans of the country.

7. In the area of international relations: The party in this area supports the practice of balanced foreign policy on the basis of good relations with all countries of the world in particular neighboring Islamic countries and members of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Central Council is commissioned to broaden and consolidate good relations with all parties, sociopolitical organizations, and pro-peace, progress, democracy and ecological national movements.

Appeals to People

LD0107015390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Message of the Homeland Party Congress to the People of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers: The second congress of the party was convened with a sense of responsibility before the homeland and the people, and to further strengthen the policy of national reconciliation, whose objective is the cessation of war and bloodshed and the reconstruction of the country. The congress, as a turning point in the restructuring of the party, affirmed the intensification of struggle for preparing better and suitable conditions for the consolidation of peace and the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. Our party, by introducing changes in its manifested objectives and charter, made an effort to approach the realities of the country in a realistic manner, relying increasingly on national, Islamic and patriotic stands.

Our party, through comprehensive criticism of its past activities before the people, presented a lofty and courageous model of frankness, sincerity, and political realism.

During nearly 26 years, the path for our party was an uneven one. Our party, during the last quarter of the century, not only fought against the ancient and oppressive domination, and made efforts on a large scale for the prosperity of the people and homeland, but at the same time found itself in a long and bloody war in defense of the territorial integrity and interests of the homeland.

At the same time our party had also committed grave mistakes. The party, as a defender of the lofty interests of the people and the homeland, should always strive not to distance itelf from the realities, and should in every step—by admitting and criticizing its mistakes—try to find the true path to a political struggle that conforms with the iofty national interests and desires of the people of the country.

Dear compatriots, it has been more than a decade during which our country has been involved in a fratricidal war. Afghans' blood is being shed on both sides. Our joint assests are being eliminated, and our ancient home is being destroyed. [passage omitted]

Under present conditions, despite serious efforts and endless sacrifices by the party, the war still continues in our country; every day dozens of our compatriots are losing their lives, and hundreds of thousands of our compatriots live in foreign countries as refugees, away from home. The Homeland Party [HP], in order to achieve peace, this important demand of our people, held its second congress. We, the members of the congress, on behalf of all the combatant members of the party, call on all Afghans, wherever they are, whose hearts beat for peace and tranquility in the country, to say yes to the call of peace in the land of Afghans that has been raised by our party, and with unity and cohesion play their patriotic part in ensuring peace and the reconstruction of their homeland.

Esteemed 'ulema and scholars! You have an outstanding role on the path of understanding and unity among Muslim people of Afghanistan and in the establishment of peace and tranquillity in our sacred land. You can invite to the direct path those people who still do not want to distinguish between the right and wrong path. Our party will provide assistance to you on this sacred path, this humanitarian effort, and will stand on your side.

As far as the intelligentsia of the country is concerned, the party defends your rights, both in its work and life. Your role is sensitive and full of responsibility on the path of struggle for peace, progress, and the prosperity of the people at the present moment in the history of our country. We support strongly your work to ensure the peace and reconstruction of the country.

Patriotic landowners and peasants, you who suffered most as a result of war: Take a further and more decisive role in the establishment of peace in the country. Support decisively the struggle of the HP for peace, and by increasing the level of your agricultural output, remove the difficulties of your compatriots.

Workers and businessmen of the country: Take active part, with your patriotic and peace-loving activities in the reconstruction of your country and the establishment of peace. Your role is outstanding on the path of serving people and progress and the advancement of the country. The HP will defend your work and living conditions.

National entrepreneurs: Defend the national reconciliation policy which is in your interest. Use further facilities in order to strengthen [word indistinct] of the private and mixed enterprises. Increase the production of the prime necessities. You should be asasured that the HP will sincerely support your patriotic participation in the progress of the country and in the development of your assets.

Brave youths of the country: You are the valuable asset of the country's future. The candle of hope for a prosperous tomorrow is, for more than anyone else, alight in your hearts. Stand in the front line of the struggle for the establishment of peace and the deliverance of the country from the fire of war with your endless strength and energy.

Muslim compatriots, sisters and brothers: You and only you can bring peace in the country. We tell you that we are your humble and sincere servants on the path to your prosperity, your tranquil and calm life, and your honorable work. We will continue our efforts to fulfill our sacred Islamic, national, and patriotic duties.

Based on the natural historial development of society, our party says goodbye to all the hostile old stereotypes. We are in favor of the ending of war, fast economic and socialist development, the creation of a new modern society, and [word indistinct].

Our party, the HP, favors the consolidation of democracy, civil liberties, parliamentary power, national reconciliation, and the estblishment of political pluralism.. We will reconstruct our war-hit and injured country, relying on the power of people, and will struggle for the welfare of the people. We have confidence that your support and backing will be with us in order to achieve these aspirations.

Our slogan is peace for Afghans and unity of the people of Afghanistan, and the reconstruction of our united country, Afghanistan.

The HP invites the noble people of Afghanistan on the path toward peace, reconciliation and understanding.

The message of our party congress for each compatriot and each Afghan subject is peace, solidarity, and friendship.

The time has come for the fires of hostility and confrontation to be extinguished in the homes of Afghans. We rely on the will of the people and their general dynamics in this great struggle for peace and reconstruction of the country.

Long live the people of Afghanistan.

Issues Message to World

LD0107152190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Excerpts] A message from the Homeland Party congress to peace-loving countries, parties, organizations and forces:

The second congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] was held in June 1990 in Kabul, capital of the Republic of Afghanistan. This congress, which was held 26 years after the first founding congress of the party on 1 January 1965, was attended by 868 persons representing 173,000 party members.

Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, presented a detailed and expanded report on the development of the national and international situation in the period between the two congresses, the development process and ups and downs that the party has experienced, and the proud gains and the bitter experiences from the founding days up to today. The report was unanimously approved by the representatives.

In this report the reasons behind successes and defeats were assessed, and the mistakes in drafting policies and in the procedure of the party were dealt with critically and sincerely. The congress approved the assessment that despite the great services that the party has rendered toward the political awareness and mobilization of the people to fulfill democratic transformation in the country, the policies and practical actions of a number of the party leaders in various stages of its history have caused friction, deviation, and ideological extremism and inflicted a certain amount of damage on the party's strength and its credit in society.

In light of the basic report, the congress has extracted valuable lessons from the 26 years of life of the party; based on these experiences, and taking into account the objective realities of Afghan society and the contemporary world, it made fundamental and deep changes in the party's name, organizational structure, methods of internal life, and policies and activities. The congress decided to change the old party name to the Homeland Party. Changes made in the party charter and program are based on the standard of loyalty to the high interests of home and people, and belief and adherence to the principles and rites of humanity—religious, national and cultural—following the principles of democracy and social justice for the welfare and prosperity of all the Afghan nation regardless of their national, tribal, language, class, political, and ideological connections. [passage omitted]

The congress extends a sincere invitation to all states, parties, organizations and peace-loving and progressive forces to take part in the search for a just and peaceful solution to the Afghan issue and to render generous assistance to the people of Afghanistan in the reconstruction of the country's war-damaged economy.

Today is the beginning of a new life for all those patriotic and committed people who have gathered around the ranks of the Homeland Party. The congress believes that the members of the party have made clear their path and methods with regard to the present and future issues of the country, society, and the world, with new amendments in the charter and program of action and the election of new leading cadres led by esteemed Dr. Najibullah, chairman of the executive board of the party's central council.

We will carry on our just policy toward the implementation of the lofty and humane aspirations of the party with strong belief in the power of the people of homeland, and relying on the help of Almighty God.

Hekmatyar Urges Joint Effort Against Kabul Regime

BK0107114990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar—Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Chief of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, has urged the need for the formation of a joint Shura and joint Jihad fronts to topple regime of Najib, reports Afghan News Agency.

Addressing the Juma [Friday prayer] congregation in Shamshatu at the outskirts of Peshawar Friday [29 June], he opined that all attention should be focussed on toppling the puppet Kabul regime.

He stressed the need for a better and broader coordination between the Jihad forces and joint commands and appealed all the Mujahidin to discard their personal as well as political rivalries for the sake of Afghan nation and the formation of a true Islamic government in Afghanistan.

He said that after formation of the joint head of Mujahidin parties (Shura) full attention should be focussed on Jihad and all resources be mobilised to overthrow the Communists backed Kabul regime.

"After achieving the primary goal of removing the regime the Shura will organise elections within six months" he proposed.

He observed that elections was the only way to stop groupings in Mujahidin ranks and organise them in a united body to for on powerful government according to the aspirations of the Afghan nation. [sentence as published]

Mr Hekmatyar viewed the the enemy of Islam wanted to entangle Mujahidin in political problems so as to divert their attention from Jihad which is the real target of Mujahidin. He proposed the formation of an elected Shura in which representation to every Mujahidin party will be given on the basis and proportion of its Jihad force.

Mr Hekmatyar expressed indignation over the recent statement of the government of Iran for the four parties negotiations between Iran, Pakistan, Mujahidin and Najib. The aim of this statement, he added, is an indirect acceptance of the Kabul regime by the government of Iran. He said that through this statement it seems that Iran wants that Najib and his Junta shall take part in the

future elections of Afghanistan. He said Mujahidin expected of the Government of Iran and Pakistan to help them against the foreign pressures and outside interference rather than proposing talks with Kabul regime.

He said that both Najib and Zahir Shah were national traitors and none of them could participate in elections. He further added that those who advocated for the participation of Najib or Zahir Shah in the future set up of Afghanistan were unaware of the true facts about that country. He said that no one in Afghanistan is ready to accept their future role in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar said "I am sure that Soviet Union is ready to replace Najib through an interim setup as his regime has no other chance. But they are facing a challenge as to whether after removing Najib they could be able to keep the present control over Afghanistan".

Najibullah Makes 'Id al-Adha Speech

LD0207184990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 2 Jul 90

["Radio-television speech" by President Najibullah on 2 July marking the arrival of 'Id al-Adha, the feast of immolation; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear compatriots, religious sisters, and brothers may peace be upon you.

On behalf of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan I express my warmest congratulations on occasion of the arrival of 'Id al-Adha to your dear compatriots, to all the brave Afghan children who defend the country's freedom and territorial integrity with pride and honor in the hot trenches, to all the Afghans who live away from the homeland and go through harsh and difficult days in the hope of returning to their fatherland, to Pashtun and Baluchi brothers, to the Muslims of the neighboring countries, and to all world Muslims. Also I want to convey the deepest sympathy of myself and that of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to those families in mourning that have lost their beloved ones as a result of fire of missiles by the extremists, these enemies of the people, as a result of the continuation of the imposed war; and by sending prayers to the sacred souls of the martyrs of the homeland, I wish tolarence for them from great God.

Dear compatriots, 'Id al-Adha which is in fact the greatest gathering of the Muslims to show respect to the self-sacrificing memory of the great prophet, Hazarat-e Ebrahim, may peace upon him, and at the same time it is a great test for the follower of right and truth to implement the instructions of God and obtain His satisfaction. Thanks be to God, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in following the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam and in declaring the national reconciliation policy, during a period of more than three years has used all measures and possibilities to end fratricide and ensure peace. With the help of Almighty God, today it is the result of this policy that not only our peace-seeking people but the great majority of the world people are supporting it.

By understanding the experiences of the hard days of war, this fact too comes into reality—that the key for the true solution of Afghanistan's knot is in the hands of Afghans themselves; and without Afghans no other foreign forces will be able to resolve the issues related to Afghanistan against their [the Afghans'] will.

Dear compatriots, you see yourselves that the republican state of Afghanistan is consistently engaged in measures, initiatives, and proposals whose sole aim is to arrive closer to peace and to end the war. The formation of a nonparty government during the last three months, the convocation of the Loya Jirga [Grand National Assembly], amendments to the Constitution, the ratification of the mecahnism of a political solution, the convocation of the [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] congress, the introduction of changes into the charter, Constitution, and name of the party—and we took other steps toward maintaining peace and understanding in the country. The aim of all these measures is to enable us to reduce the pressure of war, even if it is for a short interval, on our people, (?through political means), and not to provide the opposition with a pretext that they could utilize to fan the flames of war against our people.

By realizing national responsibility before Almighty God and my people, I once again urge the leaders of the opposition to take inspiration from the message of 'Id al-Adha for achieving the will of God and for pursuing the sacrifice of Hazarat-e Ebrahim, peace be upon him, and meeting the demands of the people of Afghanistan, to desist from the continuation of this futile war and choose the path of fraternity for understanding and reconciliation. In order to achieve peace and safeguard Afghanistan's high interests, we were and are always ready for talks.

In conclusion I pray to Almighty God to create reconciliation and brotherhood among the Afghans with the blessing of these auspicious occasions and establish lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Kabul Garrison 'Mopping-up Operation' Described

LD3006165890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces included in Kabul Garrison General Command today continued their mopping-up operations in some parts of Paghman district to prevent terrorist actions by the extremists.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that seven extremists were crushed during today's mopping up operations and 12 others were injured. Also, two foodstuff and clothes depots, 133 rocket-launchers shells, 80 surface-to-surface Mezael missiles, 65

mortar mines, two cases of heavy machinegun shells, and a communication system were siezed.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns From PRC; Visit 'Great Success'

BK0207163790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] President Ershad returned home this evening at the end of a five-day state visit to China. He was accompanied by First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad. The president was received at the airport by Vice President Moudud Ahmad. Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad, ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and high civil and military officials were also present at the airport.

Briefing newsmen on board the plane on way to Dhaka from Shanghai, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan described the visit as a great success. He said the visit was in the nature of maintaining regular contacts with the Chinese leaders and exchange of views with them on international, regional, and bilateral matters. The foreign secretary said as a result of the meetings and discussions between President Ershad and Chinese top leaders, including Deng Xiaoping and party Secretary General Jiang Zemin, understanding between the two countries have further widened and they have been brought closer. Following the discussions held between the leaders of the two countries, the agreements signed between them, the scope of cooperation will further widen and bilateral relations improve.

Earlier, President Ershad was given a hearty send off at the Shanghai airport. The minister-in-waiting, Chinese Communications Minister Qian Yongchang, saw him off. The people of Shanghai lined up on both sides of the road to bid farewell to the Bangladesh leader. He also visited a toy factory at Qingdao city and evinced keen interest in the products of the factory.

Contract Signed With PRC for Power Lines

BK0207163990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Bangladesh and China have signed a turnkey contract for supply, erection, and construction of transmission and distribution lines at a cost of 54 crore taka under the Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project. The power development board and two Chinese firms signed a contract in Dhaka today.

Under the contract, the Chinese firms will construct 85-km 132-kv [kilovolt] transmission line and 142-km 33-kv distribution line in the project area. On completion of the project in 1993-94, the power transmission and distribution system in Greater Dhaka will improve significantly.

The Asian Development Bank will provide the foreign exchange component of 42 crore taka of the project. It will also bear the local erection cost.

India

New Chief of Staff on Army's Role

BK0207081790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] The new chief of the Army staff, General S.F. Rodrigues, has said that national security is not the business of the Armed Forces alone but also of every single citizen. Talking to newsmen after formally assuming office at South Block in New Delhi today, he said the role of the media is not only to expose but also to educate. In a special order of the day, the chief of the Army staff wanted jawans [soldiers] to rededicate themselves to the code of conduct of personal behavior that makes a soldier what he is.

Earlier, General Rodrigues was received by the GOC [General Officer Commanding] of Delhi area, Major General P.P. Singh and given a guard of honor by the 56th field regiment.

On Status of Military

BK0307101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Interview with new Army Chief General Sunith Francis Rodrigues by Bahadur Singh, All India Radio's special correspondent, on "Spotlight" program; place and date not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Rodrigues]—It is heartening and at the same time makes me feel, as I said before, very humble because I only hope and pray that I can live up to people's expectations roughly.

I think my first (?KRA), then, could best be answered by telling you that in my office there is a board on which is written an officer's prayer: Lord, make me worthy of the men I serve, worthy of their loyalty and devotion to duty, their wonderous willingness and ready laughter, their great humility that asks so little and gives so much so readily without complaint. Grant their simple wishes, Lord, and bless them, please, for in this world no better soldier is [words indistinct] than thee.

[Bahadur Singh] General Rodrigues, what will be your priorities as Army chief?

[Rodrigues] I think my key result area will be a return to our traditional values and the code of personal behavior that has always been associated with the profession of arms. Some of us have, over the years or possibly in the last few years, for one reason or another, deviated somewhat from that and I cannot help feeling that if we are to maintain the standards that we pride ourselves on, that we have to go back to our roots. So, as I said, my key result area is simply the restoration of the service character. The second (?thing) is the total integration of the different components that go to make a modern army. This, of course, includes interservice aspects as well, because at this stage of our development we cannot afford the luxury of developing parallel capabilities.

We have got to be totally clear that what we are doing is cost-effective and it meets our perceptions regarding the proper operational capability that we will need to develop.

[Bahadur Singh] How do you view the current geopolitical situation with special reference to our neighboring countries?

[Rodrigues] If I may, I would like to deal with this question in two levels. It is easy to be simplistic about what is happening in the world order and to read into it all sorts of spin-offs that are not really relevant in our context. But what we really have to do if we are to get to grips with the problems that we are going to be confronted with, and find a via media, as it were, between the requirements of national security and the present resource crunch is to carry out a very hard-nosed and pragmatic assessment of our strategy and national objectives and our threat perceptions.

The development of a military capability is not something which you can do overnight. It has a very long gestation period and this is why I feel that we have got to go hand in hand with diplomacy, and first of all try and either visualize what the world order—and our particular neighborly order—will be five years or 10 years from now. Whether it is going to be possible for us to influence that in any way compatible with our perceptions of national security and finally, try and develop the sort of capability that functioning in that environment is going to need.

With regard to our neighbors—the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] equation. We are always going to have problems of perception here, because in every family the big brother is always suspect. I think that we can afford to display a certain degree of magnanimity. It is difficult to think of your national aspirations pragmatically, when you are on the receiving end or being patronized. We have a tremendous amount to offer, particularly in what I would call intermediate technology, the techniques that we have evolved through trial and error—both for the functioning of our cooperatives, the field of agriculture, intermediate technology and industry, the question of financing, even the very warp and woof of our structured democracy. These are areas that very few people in the world know very much about, or know as much as we do about it. And, I cannot help feeling that we stand on the threshold of a very exciting period in our history, and I am quite certain that we will rise to the occasion.

[Bahadur Singh] How do you view [words indistinct] national objectives and threat perception at macro level?

[Rodrigues] On the world scene, you know, we are seeing the emergence of what is commonly called a multi-polar society. The economic order is changing. There is a series of realignments. Unified Germany is going to pose questions that will require pragmatic answers on a wide variety of levels. The European Community, once it achieves the total integration laterally and vertically, will have its own dimension. And Japan, and what is commonly called the era of the Pacific, has a totally different dynamic. We are talking here of the development and maintenance of an industrial capacity at a reasonable level of productivity which obviously needs markets, which also needs a synergetic relationship between technology, a dedicated and motivated work force, and certain levels of skills. If you look at it pragmatically, we have everything to offer, but how this particular equation evolves in the years to come is going to depend, I think, on how effectively we project our ability and how well we manage to rise above our own in-house constraints.

[Bahadur Singh] Our western neighbor is acquiring the most modern weapons available in the world market today. How would you like to meet such a situation?

[Rodrigues] We have had a spate of analyses by prophets of doom and gloom forecasting arms race and a debilitating attempt to keep pace with the Joneses. I would like to emphasize that the development of a military capability does not depend purely on the induction of sophisticated weapon systems or even of technology, but is a symbiotic mix of the man behind the weapon, his motivation level, his skill level, how effectively he can keep weapon systems functional, keep them running, his conceptualization of how he would like to employ them, and we have a considerable degree of expertise in these particular areas. I know that there have been a barrage of what I can only call propaganda statements seeking to establish our neighbors' capabilities and whatever. But I have a very simple answer to all this that if you are really confident of your ability, you do not need to make a song and dance about it, because the people who know, people whose opinion really matter are very difficult to convince.

What we are seeing here is a manifestation of what used be called in the old days—talk a good fight. I am not trying to be cynical about anything like this, but you will have realized that no matter what statements have been made so far, nobody from our side has seen fit to even comment on them or to get involved in a point by point rebuttal because that is not the professional's approach. If the situation develops in that fashion, all I can say is do not start something because we will finish it.

[Bahadur Singh] One last question. In case of active hostilities forced on our borders, what will be your response?

[Rodrigues] Positive. As far as we are concerned in the service, we have achieved a very high level of integration, to use a slightly military term—all systems are go—and as I have said you will not find us wanting. I look to the future with total confidence in our ability to meet all our national aspirations.

[Bahadur Singh] General Rodrigues, would you like to give any message to our listeners?

[Rodrigues] Yes. The most important message that I would like to give is that national security is not the business of the Armed Forces alone, it is the duty of every concerned citizen. We are the cutting edge, but unless we know that you will totally support us, unless we know that whatever we do, and I do not for a moment claim that everything that we do is going to be right

because we are more humans, perhaps, than the rest of you, because we are working in conditions of more strain, and it is always easier when you are not intimately involved to come out with a correct answer to question which you are confronted with. All that I can say is would you please welcome the assumption that we will never cause you to hang your heads, because you will never need to be ashamed of us.

[Bahadur Singh] Thank you, General Rodrigues.

Minister Blames Pakistan for Kashmir Terrorism

BK0307124990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] The surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, has said that terrorism sponsored by Pakistan is the root cause of the deteriorating situation in Kashmir. Speaking to newsmen in Washington today, he said Kashmir is a question of basic terrorism, and no state or government can sit quietly over it. Mr. Unnikrishnan said India does not accept the locus standi of Pakistan and warned that Islamabad cannot go back on the Simla agreement.

Foreign Secretary Speaks on Pakistan Relations

BK0207125390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, has said India cannot make a new beginning with Pakistan unless Islamabad ceases to intervene in Kashmir. In an interview with PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], he said it is one of the great ironies of the situation that just at a time when the government is prepared to take initiatives, difficult problems have complicated bilateral relations. He said it [Pakistan's interference] has cast a dark shadow on bilateral ties, but India wants to keep the channels of communications open.

Spokesman Says No Agenda Fixed for Pakistan Talks

BK0207164390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry today clarified that no agenda whatsoever has been fixed for the forthcoming talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan. The spokesman rejected press reports in Pakistan that Kashmir will be a subject for discussion. Asserting that no subject like this has been agreed between the two countries, he emphasized that India will take up the issue of terrorism and Islamabad's interference in India's affairs during the talks.

Commentary Views Goals of Pakistan Talks

BK0107122990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Jul 90

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, PTI, special correspondent Lalith Kumar Joshi commentary on Indo-Pakistani foreign secretary-level talks to be held this month]

[Text] In a bid to de-escalate tension, foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan will meet at Islamabad from 18th to the 20th of this month. Announcing the visit at New Delhi on Thursday [28 June], a spokesman of the external affairs ministry said that the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, will be assisted by officials of the ministry at the talks with his counterpart, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan.

While no specific agenda has been drawn up for the talks, New Delhi has proposed to set a widely-publicized confidence-building measures both military and nonmilitary. On the military side, India has already withdrawn unilaterally its armor from the Mahajan ranges in Rajasthan. The suggestion for the meeting between the foreign secretaries came from Pakistan earlier last month. Islamabad wanted the meeting to be held there either in June or early July. While India agreed to a meeting between the foreign secretaries in view of its readiness and willingness to engage in a purposeful dialogue, it underlined that peaceful and harmonious relations would continue to elude as long as Pakistan was actively involved in subverting the territorial integrity and encouraging and assisting forces of secessionism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian foreign secretary told the Pakistani High Commissioner, Mr. Bashir Babar, who delivered his country's response that all attempts to deny involvement with terrorist activities would carry no conviction with anyone in the world, because of the massive evidence which has been well-documented and presented to all concerned. India made it clear that the agreement for the meeting of the two foreign secretaries was perfectly in tune with its firm commitment to developing friendly and harmonious relations with all neighboring countries. It has particular importance to fostering good relations with Pakistan in terms of the Simla agreement, as such relations would be in the interests of people of both the countries and peace and stability in the region, he said. But on the eve of the talks, the shadow seems to have been cast with the reports of Pakistan's negotiations for purchase of Soviet weaponry from countries other than the USSR.

The official spokesman of the external affairs ministry confirmed on Friday [29 June] that Islamabad was seeking the latest variety of Soviet tanks and armored personnel carriers and all related ammunition and matching missile systems. He declined to reveal the countries of purchase. The spokesman said that the addition of the sophisticated weaponry to the existing Pakistani stockpile would naturally have an adverse implication on India's security. While he said that it would have no repercussions on the forthcoming foreign secretary-level talks, we shall proceed as scheduled [as heard], it is expected that New Delhi will forcefully raise the matter in Islamabad. Pakistan's Soviet arms buying spree is a departure from its traditional sources of weapons—the United States of America and the Western Bloc. This is possibly due to the attempts by Washington to distance itself from Pakistan by moving away from

special relationship and becoming more even-handed in its approach to India and Pakistan. While New Delhi appears to be not unduly alarmed by the Pakistani arms purchase, it is known that the subcontinent has in the past been drawn into an arms race largely fuelled by the injection of sophisticated weaponry from outside into Pakistan. Any new addition of this kind will necessarily affect the security situation and stability in the region, the external affairs ministry spokesman said.

Asked for India's response, he said New Delhi was fully aware of its responsibilities. With regard to the defense of the country's borders, Government of India will take all appropriate measures to safeguard India's security, the spokesman said.

The foreign secretary-level dialogue comes after a year. The last meeting was in June at Islamabad between the then foreign secretaries Mr. S.K. Singh, and Mr. Humayun Khan. While strictly it was New Delhi's turn to host the meeting, India agreed to the Pakistani suggestion to have the talks there. The meeting will take place shortly after the return of the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, from an extended tour of the Gulf. In fact, the dates have been so chosen for the talks to enable Mr. Ahmad to consult Ms. Bhutto during the three-day meetings.

The other focus of India during the talks is expected to be the issue of Pakistan's open aid to terrorism against India in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan is sure to raise the alleged violation of human rights on Kashmir. Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has welcomed the foreign secretary-level meeting, describing it as a positive development in the ongoing efforts to reduce tension, but said that miracles should not be expected at the first meeting. India is going for the talks in a constructive spirit and looking forward to de-escalating tensions, which have built up in the last seven months.

Reportage on Sri Lankan Situation, Indian Reaction

Sri Lanka Official Delivers Message

BK0207170190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Sri Lanka has assured India that the ongoing fight in that country is not directed against the Tamil community but against terrorism. This was conveyed by the visiting Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, while briefing New Delhi on the recent developments in his country. He said Colombo is alive to India's concern.

Mr. Tilakaratna, who arrived in the capital today, had a meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, besides having discussions with the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey. He handed over to Mr. Gujral a message from the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Harold Herath. The external affairs minister conveyed to Mr. Tilakaratna India's concern regarding the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The possibility of third countries getting involved in the process is also an area of New Delhi's concern, which was brought to the notice of the Sri Lankan foreign secretary.

Official sources add that during the meeting Mr. Tilakaratna expressed apprehension regarding the possibility of support to terrorists from Tamil Nadu. His attention was drawn to the prime minister's recent assertion that Indian territory will not be allowed as a base for hostile activities. The external affairs minister expressed India's appreciation for the initiative taken by Sri Lanka to keep New Delhi informed on the developments in that country.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has said that it is prepared for a cease-fire if the injured soldiers are allowed to be evacuated from Jaffna Fort, as LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants cut off water supply to the besieged Jaffna Fort and mounted sporadic attacks on other defense installations. Briefing newsmen, the cabinet spokesman and the minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, reiterated the government's stand that all arms by LTTE be surrendered as a precondition for a cease-fire.

Premier Urged To Stop 'Genocide'

BK0107133890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Fifteen members of Parliament [MP's], belonging to the All India Anna DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam]—AIADMK today urged the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to take immediate steps to stop what they described as the genocide of Sri Lankan Tamils by the island's army. In a telegram, the MP's charged the center of not taking any strong action to prevent the aerial bombing of Tamil areas.

The signatories to the statement include Mr. S. Madhavan, Mr. K. Kalimuthu, and the former Lok Sabha deputy speaker, Mr. M. Thambidurai.

Refugee Influx Into Madras Continues

BK0407075890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, refugees continue to pour into Rameswaram from Sri Lanka. According to official sources, more than 200 families consisting of 788 persons arrived yesterday. With this, the refugee population in the Mandapam camp will be more than 4,400. With the aerial bombing and increasing starvation in the Jaffna peninsula, thousands of refugees are expected to arrive in Rameswaram in the next few days.

40 'Tamil Militants' Detained

BK0407150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, 18 EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] militants were detained

under the National Security Act in different parts of the state. According to official sources, the state government yesterday passed orders detaining 22 LTTE men under the act. The total number of Sri Lankan Tamil militants now detained in Tamil Nadu has gone up to 40.

Commentary Concerned Over Strife

BK2706121390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Commentary by M.K. Dharmaraja: "Sri Lankan Conflict"]

[Text] The escalating armed conflict in Sri Lanka between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the LTTE, and the government forces is fraught with perilous geopolitical implications. The northern and eastern areas of the island are plunged in a fierce ordeal involving large segments of the civilian population. India with her close historical, cultural and other age-old ties between the people of the two countries, especially with the people of Indian origin there, cannot but be gravely concerned with this ominous tragedy. The serious dimensions of the fresh eruption of the armed strife which has assumed the proportions of full-scale warfare threaten to cause a renewed influx of refugees into the Indian mainland. The figure which had one time totalled nearly 150,000 may well exceed the number in the wake of the renewed fighting unless timely precautionary measures are put through to stem the tide. The northeastern province of Sri Lanka is itself reported to be reeling under the pressure of over 200,000 homeless people displaced since hostilities broke out in the area a fortnight ago.

India's traditional relationship of cordiality with Sri Lanka is governed by a steadfast policy of reconciliation and the promotion of peace among all sections of the island's population. While remaining firmly committed to the maintenance of integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka, India has consistently been promoting efforts to bring together the representatives of the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil minority in the country. India's good offices sought and offered to Sri Lanka were aimed at working out a suitable constitutional setup which would meet the aspirations of the Tamil minority and enable them to live in the island in safety and with dignity.

It was in this context, therefore, that Prime Minister V.P. Singh voiced India's concern over the present unhappy developments in Sri Lanka. Speaking to correspondents on his return from the visit to Maldives last week, he emphasized that India was averse to civilian lives being sacrificed or the unnecessary use of force in Sri Lanka, recalling that India had expressed her views to the Sri Lankan Government and would continue her efforts in this direction through diplomatic channels.

International opinion has also expressed itself in no uncertain terms over the wanton killing of the hapless and innocent civilians in the northern and eastern parts of the island. There is a growing alarm and concern over the thousands of citizens caught in the cross-fire of the intensifying strife.

The security operations launched by Sri Lankan armed forces are said to have resulted in several major centers of the region being starved of food and essential supplies. The scenario is grim and is beset with disastrous consequences.

The gruesome situation in this Indian Ocean island now seems to have returned to the position of square one as it obtained in July 87 when the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] began to be deployed in the northeastern part of the island in response to the specific request of the Sri Lankan Government. India, as is well-known, was obliged to comply with the request under the terms of the India-Sri Lanka accord signed a few days earlier. It was thus under the shadow of unprecedented violence over large parts of the island triggered by militant activities that the IPKF undertook its none-too-easy mission desired by Colombo. What a commendable task this force performed under the most adverse conditions in the island's mine-infested forbidding terrain, bringing the militants to heel, is part of the contemporary chronicle.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa who had taken over the island government's leadership from Mr. Junius Jayewardene went on record last March expressing his high appreciation of the IPKF's role during the 32 months of its operations in Sri Lanka. At a cost of heavy suffering and the sacrifice of the peacekeeping force from friendly India, it had indeed pulled out the strife-torn nation from the brink of disintegration. But the devolution of power in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka as envisaged in the India-Sri Lanka agreement in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of the ethnic minority remained largely unfulfilled.

Government Promises Not To Intervene

BK0507131590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan special envoy left for Colombo Thursday [5 July] after securing an Indian commitment not to intervene in his government's war with Tamil separatists. Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratne said during a stopover in Madras that Colombo appreciated India's "overall attitude of non-involvement" in the island's affairs, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Tilakaratne, a former ambassador to India, told reporters in the southern Indian city that his talks in New Delhi with Indian officials, including Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, had been "useful." He said Mr. Gujral had also repeated assurances that India would not allow its soil to be used as a "haven" by the powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who resumed their guerrilla war on June 11.

The LTTE used the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, home to more than 55 million Indian Tamils, as a

base until a July 1987 peace pact between New Delhi and Colombo under which India sent some 60,000 troops to the island. The troops, whose brief was to end separatism and enforce peace, ended up fighting the Tigers after they scrapped the pact and launched a guerrilla campaign. The Indian troops returned home in March after losing 1,200 men.

Mr. Tilakaratne, President Ranasinghe Premadasa's special envoy, briefed the Indian Government on fighting in Sri Lanka's northeast and sought to calm New Delhi over civilian casualties in government bombing.

In Madras, the Tamil Nadu capital, he repeated that the doors were open for the LTTE to negotiate a settlement with Colombo, PTI said without elaborating. He accused the Tigers, the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, of backing down on a commitment to lay down arms under a ceasefire agreement, the agency added.

Observers have linked Mr. Tilakaratne's visit to Colombo's desire to ensure India remains neutral in the fighting, which has reportedly left hundreds dead. Many Sri Lankans say they fear the Indian military could intervene again, although New Delhi has repeatedly pledged not to interfere.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party has asked the government to act to stop the fighting and prevent more civilian deaths.

Agreement Signed With USSR on Power Plant Aid

BK2706163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] The Soviet Union is to provide assistance for the construction of the 630-megawatt thermal power plant in Bakreshwar, West Bengal. An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday at the conclusion of a week-long visit to the Soviet Union by the energy minister, Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan.

Rupee Trade With USSR To Continue to 1995

BK0307163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Rupee trade is to continue with the Soviet Union up to 1995. An agreement to this effect was signed in Moscow at the end of the working group trade meeting. The trade and payment agreement between India and the Soviet Union, which forms the basis for rupee payment, has been extended. The Soviet Union has also agreed to step up supplies of oil and petroleum products to India from next year. It has agreed to increase supplies of newsprint, coking coal, and rolled steel products. During the talks at the working group, the Soviet side expressed willingness to import higher quantities of textile and jute products from India during the five year period, beginning next year. Both sides agreed to remove bottlenecks in transportation of goods from either country.

Finance Minister Details Foreign Investment Policy

BK3006071890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, has emphatically stated that the basic thrust of the government's economic policy is self-reliance. Inaugurating the 63d annual session of FICCI [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry] in New Delhi today, Mr. Dandavate said no country can dictate to India what its policy regarding foreign investments should be. The government will allow selective foreign investment to overcome the problem of resource constraints, but this did not mean that it was opening the floodgate, he said.

The finance minister demarcated three areas of economy for the purpose of investment. In the first sector, the effort will be to pursue self-reliance with no foreign investment. In the second sector, foreign investment will be allowed with 40 percent equity for the collaborator and 60 for the country. The equity in the third sector, which comprises high technology and export-oriented units, will be negotiable. [passage omitted]

Ministers Reaffirm Commitment

BK0407035490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] The union Council of Ministers has endorsed the need for continuing foreign investment within the national priority for modernization and to meet the critical gap in technology and production and for boosting exports. The council today reviewed the economic situation and discussed various aspects of the economic policy. The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. The discussions were based on a detailed report of the economic scenario presented by the finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate.

The council felt that a strong export growth is essential for self-reliance and protection of economic independence. The Council of Ministers reaffirmed its commitment to the program outlined in the National Front manifesto to build a strong self-reliant economy. It endorsed the policy measures announced recently for the promotion of small-scale and agro-based industries and the changes in procedures for industrial approval. The meeting noted that it is essential to ensure maximum utilization of available resources in the country and remove discretionary bureaucratic regulations of industrial investment. It felt that there is a need for nondiscretionary controls which enable quick decisions besides adequately reflecting the government's priorities.

After a two-hour-long discussion, the Council of Ministers adopted a statement saying that the constraints under which the economy is functioning should be removed with firm measures. Recognizing the serious fiscal imbalances and external payments position inherited by the new government, the Council of Ministers reiterated the need to control the budget deficit. The

statement said that investment of 50 percent of plan resources in agricultural and rural sector will help create productive employment on a large-scale in a short span.

Professor Dandavate, reviewing the balance of payments and the fiscal position, said the country cannot rely on external borrowing for covering gaps in domestic savings. He called for mobilization of more revenue through strict compliance of tax laws and by increasing public sector surpluses.

Minister on Restrictions

BK0407035390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The union finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, has made it clear that foreign investment will not be allowed in the consumer goods, agro-based, and small-scale industrial sectors. Clarifying certain aspects of the new industrial policy which was approved by the central Cabinet in New Delhi on Sunday [1 July], Mr. Dandavate said in Pune yesterday that the government will prepare a list of specified industries in which foreign investment could be made up to 40 percent without bureaucratic hassles.

Two Soldiers Killed in Kashmir Valley

BK0207065990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, two Army men were killed and two others injured as terrorists ambushed an army vehicle yesterday on the Gulmarg-Patan road. The security forces have launched an intensive search for the terrorists involved in the incident. This was the first incident of its kind in the Kashmir valley. The terrorists also shot dead a person in the border town of Uri. One terrorist was killed while he was crossing the line of control. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered by security forces from two places in the border belt.

Gold Discovered in Himachal Pradesh

BK3006080490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, gold has been struck in the river terraces in Bilaspur and Una districts. This was disclosed by the director of geological survey of India, Dr. Bhargava, in Simla. He said 0.8 gram of gold per ton of alluvium up to a depth of one meter from the surface has been discovered in the area. Mr. Bhargava said that lead and zinc were also found in Chemeri area of Sirmaur district.

Iran

Envoy Asks Japan for Help in Improving U.S. Ties

OW0407111690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 4 KYODO—Iranian Ambassador to Japan Hosayn Kazempur-Ardebili asked Japan's former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe on Wednesday [4 July] to help Iran improve ties with the United States, officials said. Kazempur-Ardebili also called for Japanese economic assistance to Iran.

Abe, currently head of the second largest power group within the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), told the ambassador that American sentiment toward Iran appears to be turning better. Abe, who visited the U.S. last month as a government envoy at events marking the 30th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, promised to convey Kazempur-Ardebili's request to government officials.

The U.S. severed diplomatic ties with Iran in April 1980, five months after Iranians seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage.

The United States sent a planeload of relief supplies through the United Nations to Iran after it was hit by a killer earthquake last month, according to Iran's state-run IRNA NEWS AGENCY.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Quake, Mecca Deaths

LD0407133690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Interview with President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [correspondent] You visited the quake-stricken regions of Zanjan Province; could you please let us know your evaluation of this trip and the role the people can play in the rebuilding task?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I thought that yesterday, the day of the 'Id sacrifice, would be better spent with our bereaved people. I allocated the entire day to the region. [passage omitted] The important problem facing these people is the issue of housing. Everyone is worried about his future housing. They cannot go inside cracked houses, because they do not feel safe; and they are right to feel that way. The tents will not meet their requirements in winter, and it is difficult to live in tents even now. They realize that final buildings cannot be prepared in two or three months on a large scale. As I have been informed, we must build 100,000-115,000 homes, in addition to office buildings and other requirements. That was their main demand and it is our major task, too, that is, to provide housing for the people. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that the five-year economic development plan has started, will the budget allocated to the plan not be undermined by the rebuilding cost envisioned for the earthquake-hit region?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We hope it will not be undermined. We might be able to reassign some sums. Currently the Majles planning commission is working to allocate a source for this task. We in the government are working too. The budget and planning organization is also working to allocate resources in rials and foreign currency. Some programs might be brought forward or be delayed. For instance, some programs planned for the fourth and fifth year of the plan, which is about this earthquake-stricken area, might be brought forward. As a whole, I think our system can cope with it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will you use foreign aid to rebuild the earthquake-stricken regions?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What we declared before remains in force. This phase required immediate assistance and the aid was not so great quantitavely or in view of what is significant for rebuilding. The immediate assistance was good, very timely indeed and effective in our task. In the reconstruction phase I think our main need, which must somehow be met from abroad, is building materials. Naturally we would accept these materials if some were to wish to assist the people. If they do not wish to, we would acquire them ourselves. At any rate this is a task which should be fulfilled.

[Correspondent] Some mass media have linked the material aid to the earthquake victims with political issues. What are your views on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That is satanic gossip. Well, this is the usual international reponse; when such major disasters happen no country can solve all its problems at first. The International Red Cross and these international links are for times like this. When a country is damaged, lacks the means, or is facing difficulties, others can help. If you mean whether aid effects our relations, of course, when some kindness is shown, naturally it will leave its effect. I accept this too. But if you mean there are some conditions or something will be imposed on the country receiving the aid, well, this is nonsense. There are those who volunteer to help. This is their duty, we all have global obligations. We too help wherever we can. This aid belongs to the people; and no one can say that the people should not obtain the aid, which has been directed to them and which they need, unless there is some harm, in which case it is rejected. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the sixth round of Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva about [UN] Resolution 598, please let us know your views about the course of the talks and how you evaluate this trend.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I view the international climate and the atmosphere existing between the two countries as better than in the past. The trust of the two countries in the fact that the other side also desires peace has become greater. I do not have exact information about the current talks in Geneva, because our foreign minister has not returned yet. I am moderately informed at the moment. We are waiting for him to return, to learn of the details of the issue and then to judge. However, what is clear to me now is that we are closer to peace now compared to a couple of months ago.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what is your view about the report about the tragic catastrophe of the death of hundreds of pilgrims to the sacrosanct house of God in holy Mecca, and is this event not another aspect of the incompetence of the Al Sa'ud regime in administering the two holy mosques?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, it is a sign of their incompetence. This is a truly bitter catastrophe. According to their own figures, 1,426 Hajj pilgrims, guest pilgrims, guests of God, were tragically killed in a tunnel. Well, this is a very bitter experience. This is not the will of God, like the earthquake in Iran. Nowhere in the world can one control earthquakes in advance, except by having proper buildings and such like. However, the fact that such a large number of people is massacred in a tunnel, a large number of people perishes and dies, this cannot be easily acceptable. It is a source of shame for the world of Islam that 1 or 2 million people gather in a place and such an incident takes place on the route. Those officials responsible for administering the holy mosques and the Saudi rulers should be answerable to the Islamic world; regardless of what caused this incident, whether people's fright or overcrowding, or as it has been said by some, gas or electricity or something else has caused the catastrophe. I do not know these things at the moment. It is not easy to judge because we do not possess the information. The issue in itself is unacceptable and the Islamic world should think of something for the security of that place. The pilgrims who go there do not have any means of defense. In the past there have been some fires and fatalities. From such incidents it is clear that the level of the security of the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia should be increased. This catastrophe is sufficient for the Islamic world to take some steps in this direction and to think of some acceptable solution. However, we need more time to be able to make a more measured judgement. In any case, I express my condolences to the relatives of all the innocent pilgrims who have perished in this way. We will do our share of the duty to protect the security of the pilgrims to the house of God.

[Correspondent] We have just passed the second anniversary of the painful tragedy of the martyrdom of 300 passengers of a civilian aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran by a U.S. frigate in the Persian Gulf. This is despite the fact that the United States still has a military presence in the region. What measures should be taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran so that we can expel the United States from the region?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The countries of the region should cooperate and should deny the United States its excuses

for its presence in the name of the war, in the name of supporting some countries which are under threat, or oil wells, or according to them, U.S. vital interests. They are present there on these pretexts. Definitely the people—the people of all countries—are against this presence. Their presence could only be in the interest of some rulers, so that they can reassure them so that they stay on America's side. This is not a sufficient reason for the presence of a great world power. It also entails some dangers, and only madmen engage in such crazy acts. Nothing else except madness could explain the downing of the aircraft and the martyring of about 300 human beings. There is evidence also that this was not a mistake. If a power has such dangers, it is not in anyone's interest for it to stay in the region. The countries of the region did not have such relations with us so that they could cooperate with us in this important issue we are pursuing. If our circumstances improve to some extent, it should certainly be among our basic measures to expel any foreign power from the region. The countries of the region themselves should administer the region. Of course, some basis of trust should also exist between these countries, so that the smaller and weaker countries are not frightened and take refuge in these world giants. We should have a policy so that all can be confident of their own rights, may be content, and may achieve their rights. [passage omitted]

Reportage on UN-Iran-Iraq Talks in Geneva

Velayati Interviewed Before Meeting

LD0207171190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will start his talks with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in Geneva today. Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, who have travelled to Geneva for that reason, in an interview last night, reiterated the necessity for the precise and unconditional implementation of the [UN] Resolution [598]. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report in that connection:

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, who has travelled to Geneva at the invitation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Ceullar to exchange ideas over the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, in an exclusive interview with the Islaimic republic of Iran's Voice and Vision [radio and television] reiterated the need for the speedy and unconditional implemention of Resolution 598. He also stressed the significance of the role of the UN Secretary General in that connection.

In the interview he said that in this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to continue its cooperation with the UN secretary General. Dr. Velayati will meet the UN secretary general in the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva this evening. Sources close to the UN Secretariat believe that the secretary general's invitation to the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq was made in the wake of the proposal for his visit to the region. The secretary general will try to study the need for carrying out such a visit in the course of the talks with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq this evening and tomorrow, and discuss initiatives aimed at speeding-up the implementation of Resolution 598. Again, the sources close to the UN Secretariat believe that the UN secretary general does not maintain his past cynicism with regard to the probability of achieving some success in breaking the existing deadlock in the way of implementing the resolution.

Talks Open 3 Jul

LD0307180990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in London]

[Text] In the name of God and with greetings to dear viewers. At about 1915 Tehran time, the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq started the sixth round of talks concerning the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 in the presence of UN Secretary general in the UN European headquarters in Geneva. This is the first meeting of its kind since Ordibehesht last year [month starting on 21 April 1989] and it is the first sign of a probable break in the year-long deadlock in the course of the talks about the implementation of Resolution 598.

Before the start of these talks, Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, announced that he has some signs that both sides wish to find a speedy solution for the implementation of Resolution 598. Although the agenda for tonight's talks has not been revealed, sources which are close to the talks believe that the secretary general is trying, in addition to evaluating the background for his visit to Tehran and Baghdad, to evaluate the atmosphere existing in tonight's talks for advancing the course of the progress of the implementation of the resolution. If the secretary general decides that the appropriate climate exists, he will leave for Tehran and Baghdad in the near future.

In tonight's talks, which opened in the Palace of the Nations, besides the secretary general and the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq who are seated on his right and left round an oval table, eleven high-ranking experts from the UN Secretariat and from the ministries of foreign affairs of Iran and Iraq are also present.

Velayati Comments

LD0407190190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Following the meeting with his Iraqi counterpart, held in presence of the UN secretary general, our country's foreign affairs minister in a news conference announced that the meeting created favorable conditions for the implementation of [UN] Resolution 598 and for

the pivotal [supervisory] role of the UN secretary general. Our correspondent has sent a report to which we draw your attention:

[Unidentified correspondent] During a news conference held at the UN European office in Geneva, our country's foreign minister announced that his meeting last night with Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, created favorable conditions for the two sides to renew their commitments toward the implementation of Resolution 598, and the supervisory role of the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Dr. Velayati stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm belief in the validity and the binding nature of the 1975 Iran-Iraq [Algiers] accord and explained the Iraqi stance as more friendly.

He said the meeting showed that both sides are compromising more than before and the atmosphere has become milder since the Iraqi president sent a message to the Islamic Republic of Iran's president and the Islamic Republic of Iran's president replied to it. On the possibility of a meeting between the Iranian and the Iraqi presidents, Dr. Velayati stressed: It is still too early to talk about that. He noted that Iranian and Iraqi experts are holding discussions at various levels.

Velayati Briefs Journalists

LD0407141390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1240 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 4 (KUNA)—'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of Iran, Wednesday said the future implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 looked 'more promising' now that 'flexible' attitudes were being adopted by both Iraq and Iran. Asked while addressing a press conference as to what aspects would be dealt with in particular, Velayati said, 'We cannot go beyond the Resolution 598. Recently, the U.N. secretary general suggested a plan for implementation of Resolution 598, which has unanimous support.'

'We think that if both of us (Iraq and Iran) follow this plan, it will be to our benefit and will also facilitate the implementation of the resolution,' he added.

Velayati pointed out that two provisions which were particularly sensitive and important related to the withdrawal of military forces and the repatriation of prisoners of war. 'If both these sensitive issues are solved, the implementation of the other provisions will be facilitated.' he observed.

The minister said his delegation was prepared to enter into 'serious and substantive' discussios with Ambassador Elliasson, personal representative of the secretary general, and his collegues during the course of this week.

Velayati also welcomed Perez de Cuellar's positive consideration of the invitation extended to him by both Iraq and Iran to visit the area. 'We are confident that such a visit in the near future will prove valuable for expediting the implementation of Resolution 598, which would lead to the resumption of good neighbourly relations between Iran and Iraq and return of stability to our region.'

Asked about when the summit between Iraq and Iran would take place, Velayati said it was 'too soon' to talk aout that as experts at various levels from both sides were engaged in preparing the suitable grounds. In this context, he noted that the sending of a letter by the president of Iraq had 'softened' the atmosphere between the two countries, adding that 'we have responded positively, as you know.'

As to whether there would be a change of attitude concerning the Rushdie affair, Velayati said the Islamic verdict, which was confirmed by several Islamic nations, could not be changed. The issue, he pointed out, should be seen seperate from that of improving bilateral relations between Iran and Britain. He said positive steps had been taken in the last few months, following a law passed in Parliament on the resumption of relations between the two countries.

On the prospects in Afghanistan, Velayati said Iran favoured a genuine, general election, with the participation of all Afghans, as the only step that coul provide a durable solution. That, he added, should be done without any interference from any other country.

Velayati Briefs on Quake Destruction

LD0407195590 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati briefed the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva on Wednesday on the casualties and the destructions inflicted by the July 21 earthquake in Iran. He appreciated the international assistance to the quake victims.

Velayati said the earthquake measuring 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale which rocked northern and northwestern Iran—especially Zanjan and Gilan Provinces—was the deadliest one in the world over the past two decades. Hundreds of villages vanished in the quake, he said.

Forty cities were jolted, three were thoroughly destroyed and substantial damage was inflicted on 12 cities and hundreds of villages were destroyed, Velayati noted. It is not still possible to exactly estimate the number of casualties and extent of damage, he said adding that according to the estimates made so far some 50,000 lost their lives, many more injured and half a million were made homeless.

"The tragedy has been devastating, the suffering immense, casualties numerous, losses unbearable and consequences irreversible," he said, adding that "international solidarity and support alongside the sacrifice of our people are invaluably soothing."

The foreign minister is in Geneva to hold talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his Iraqi

counterpart Tariq 'Aziz on full enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Thanking for the messages of sympathy sent by the governments and the people around the globe and the efforts made by international institutions and agencies as well as nongovernment organizations headed by the U.N., the foreign minister considered such efforts as "an invaluable material and spiritual support" to the Iranian people.

"With the initial shock fading away the more difficult and demanding task lies immediately ahead," he said. "Four cities and hundreds of villages must be built from scratch. About 100,000 homes are required to shelter the homeless. Thousands of schools, hospitals and other public facilities must be reconstructed."

Velayati also said he hoped to provide the United Nations with the necessary information about Iran's reconstruction plans in a matter of weeks.

Perez de Cuellar To Tour Iran, Iraq 'Soon'

LD0307215390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] The sixth round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq which started on Tuesday afternoon in the presence of the UN secretary general in the UN headquarters came to an end after one hour of talks. Our colleague has sent us a report about the outcome of these talks, to which we draw your attention:

[Unidentified correspondent] After the end of the hour-long tripartite talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq with the UN secretary general, the UN Secretariat in Geneva announced that in order to prepare the way for the complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 the UN secretary general will soon leave for Tehran and Baghdad.

The tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq which are the first talks of their kind during the past 15 months were held in a more restricted gathering [jam'e mahdudtar] and in a new form and combination. At the beginning of the meeting, after the UN secretary general had thanked both sides for convening this meeting, the Iraqi foreign minister expressed his condolences for the catastrophic earthquake in our country and expressed the sympathy of himself and the Iraqi government and nation. The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked him for his condolences and expressions of sympathy. Then the two sides expressed their viewpoints, including complete adherence to Resolution 598 and the supervision by the secretary general and his continued efforts for the implementation of the resolution.

The secretary general and the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers expressed their pleasure at the exchange of letters between the Iranian and Iraqi presidents as a positive move toward the implementation of Resolution 598. At the end of this meeting it was decided that Iranian and Iraqi experts should continue their consultations during the coming week in the presence of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's special representative in Iran-Iraq talks, so that they can prepare the way for the forthcoming visit of the secretary general to Tehran and Baghdad.

The UN secretary general in a statement described the one-hour long meeting of the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers as an event which has helped to improve the climate of relations between the two countries. The UN secretary general stressed that the foreign ministers of both countries have assured him that they will support him and his efforts for the implementation of Resolution 598, and that Resolution 598 will be the framework for any action by the two countries.

The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London.

Reportage on Iranian Reaction to Mecca Deaths

Karrubi Blames Saudi 'Incompetence'

LD0407110290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Excerpt] In today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, chaired by Majles Speaker Karrubi, Karrubi expressed regret at the painful incident that took place in holy Mecca leading to the death of over 1,400 pilgrims of the house of God, and reproached the Saudi Arabian [Arabestan-e Sa'udi] regime. He said he considers the regime's inability to look after the lives of the pilgrims of the house of God as another sign of its incompetence in administering the holy shrines.

The Majles speaker, in another part of his remarks, honored the memory of the martyrs of the passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran and termed America's criminal actions in downing that airliner as a warning to consciences that are awake all over the world. [passage omitted]

Muslim Groups Blame Saudis

LD0407112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Following the incident in the tunnel in Mecca which led to the death of more than 1,000 pilgrims to the sacrosanct house of God, the Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula condemned the Saudi rulers as being incapable of safeguarding the security of the pilgrims. Expressing its condolences to the Muslims of the world, the organization stressed: The Saudi regime is responsible for this catastrophe. This spokesman said: The officials of the Al Sa'ud regime, despite receiving various taxes from the pilgrims and limiting the number of the pilgrims to the sacrosanct house of God, unfortunately have not been able to provide the necessary security for the pilgrims.

The revolutionary Hezbollah Movement of Lebanon also described the Saudi regime as being responsible for the

death of more than 1,400 pilgrims to the house of God. A statement published by this organization said: Despite all the contradictory statements by the Saudi rulers about this incident, whatever the cause of the incident, it is a testimony to the incompetence and inefficiency of Al Sa'ud for administering the two holy mosques.

Foreign Ministry Deplores Deaths

LD0407200590 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 4 IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today deploring the death of more than 1,400 pilgrims in a tunnel near Mecca during the Hajj Monday [2 July], called on the ulema to assume administration of the holy sanctuaries in order to guarantee the safety of pilgrims.

"The repeated martyrodm and death of 'guests of God' over the past few years proves the bitter fact that competence and efficiency are required to handle the affairs of pilgrims, something the current custodian lack," said the statement.

To administer the holy sanctuaries is not a claim to a mere title, but rather something which needs merit, faith and sincerity in serving the faithful who flock to House of God, said the statement. It described Monday's tragedy as a "new wound on the body of the Islamic ummah and an agony."

Ever since its cold-blooded massacre of 400 plus pilgrims on July 31, 1987 in Mecca, the Saudi regime has further violated divine laws, by barring Iranian pilgrims from the annual pilgrimage for the third consequtive year this season.

Monday's incident when 1,400 pilgrims were trapped to death in the oven like atmosphere of the tunnel leading to Mina, brought out the incompetence of the Saudis whose credentials are under serious question by world Muslims.

Foreign Ministry Urges Supervision

LD0407175390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of our country issued a statement expressing its sorrow and condolences to the relatives of those killed in the disastrous incident in the Mina tunnel. It once again drew the attention of the 'ulema and scholars of the world of Islam to the need to pay attention to the methods used in the administration of the two holy sanctuaries, calling on them to provide careful supervision and reach agreements on decisions to provide for the security and safety of the pilgrims to the immune house of God.

Yazdi Makes Statement

LD0507131490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] In a statement issued by Mr. Yazdi, head of the Judicial Power, on the occasion of the martyrdom of more than 1,400 pilgrims to the house of God, who were martyred as they performed hajj rites in the Mina Tunnel, condolences were offered to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, the families of the martyrs of that tragedy, and all the Muslims of the world. The statement also refers to the slaughter three years ago by the regime of the house of Sa'ud of hundreds of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims who were declaring disavowal from heathens, the United States, and Zionism. It then states: Unfortunately, this is one in a series of unfortunate accidents that have occurred during the hajj ceremonies in the recent years, due to the incompetence of the rulers of the house of Sa'ud. Yet, the armies of God [pilgrims] have to bear the cost of such incompetence with their lives.

In the statement, it was stressed: The trend of the events during the past few years makes it more imperative than ever before that pilgrimage affairs and the service of the honorable sanctuaries be entrusted to a council composed of the ulema and the representatives of the worldwide ummah of Islam. The trend of events also refutes the monopolistic sovereignty of an incompetent and corrupt family over the most sacred sanctuary of the Muslims. Though, due to the censorship exercised by the house of Sa'ud, many days after the incident, the depth of the tragedy is still hidden to the world of Islam, the news published so far has saddened the spirit of the committed Muslims all over the world. The world Muslims hold the Saudi authorities directly responsible for the events during the past few years as well as the agonizing tragedy of this year and in so doing they find stronger conviction in the necessity to find solutions for the preservation of the sanctity of the magnificent rites of hajj.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

PY0307142090 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell has arrived in Tehran for a four-day visit, becoming the first Uruguayan diplomat to visit Iran since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

Gros Espiell said that his visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral economic ties with Iran, which has become one of Uruguay's main trading partners in the past few years. Uruguay imports oil from Iran and exports meat, wool, and rice to that country.

Before departing for Tehran, Gros Espiell made a four-day visit to Cairo, where he met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Discusses Trade Relations

LD0407123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] At this morning's meeting between the foreign minister of Uruguay with Mr. Vahaji, our country's

commerce minister, the two sides pointed to the appropriate commercial relations existing between Iran and Uruguay and expressed their readiness to strengthen and expand these relations.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that his country will purchase Iranian goods as much as it can and, in turn, supply some of the products needed by the Islamic Republic of Iran such as rice, meat, and wool.

Our country's commerce minister too, while expressing satisfaction at the good commercial relations existing between Iran and Uruguay in these past years, noted that there are limitations to the expansion of mutual relations. He added: The export of some nonpetroleum Iranian products to Uruguay could strengthen further relations between the two countries.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0407170390 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Uruguay's Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiel handed over a written message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his Uruguan counterpart, here Wednesday.

Espiel underscored his country's willingness for the expansion of bilateral relations in diplomatic and economic fields. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed Uruguay's stand towards world issues as "positive" and expressed hope for further expansion of bilateral ties.

Earlier in the day, the Uruguayan official met acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, and reviewed possibilities for expansion of Tehran-Montevideo political, economic and cultural ties. The two sides also decided to pave the way for formation of a joint economic commission through exchange of visits by commerce ministers of the two countries.

Besharati said that developments in East and West should not occur at the cost of the interests of Third World countries. He stressed that the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine would embolden the hegemonist Zionist regime and hinder settlement of the Palestinian issue. The Iranian official said that the issue of Middle East and the Palestinian question will be solved only in the light of an independent Palestine.

Sympathizing with the Iranian people over the disastrous quake which struck northwestern Iran, the Uruguan minister announced his country's readiness to render any required aid in this regard. He also agreed with the establishment of an independent Palestine. Espiel who arrived Monday on a four-day visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, extended an invitation for 'Ali Akbar Velayati to visit Montevideo, and hoped to meet him during the U.N. General Assembly sessions.

Velayati is currently in Geneva for the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Ongoing Reportage on Earthquake Aftermath

Muslims in Greece Raise Funds

LD0207164990 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Athens, July 2, IRNA—A prominent Islamic leader here during the sermon of 'Id al-Adha (Feast of Immolation) prayers Monday appealed to the Muslims to rush to the help of their quake-stricken brothers in Iran.

"The West and the churches are sending aid to Iran, so it is the first and foremost duty of Muslims to come to the help of their Mulsim brothers in this moment of divine trial," he told the large crowd of worshippers.

The Arab imam lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for refusing to accept any help from the Zionist occupiers of Palestine and the apartheid regime of South Africa. "We have to respect and praise this Islamic stand of Iran," the imam said and called on the Muslims to donate money for the quake-stricken muslims of Iran and for the cause of jihad in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of Muslims from various countries participated in the prayers held in the Eleftheriya park in cental Athens Monday morning. The worhsippers donated thousands of drachmas after the prayers to the Iranian quake-fund and for jihad in Afghanistan.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Habibullah Biazar, first secretaryt Reza Shakir and other Iranian Embassy staff attended the prayers.

Muslim Students in Greece's second-largest city Salonica also collected thousands of drachmas for the quake-fund in Iran.

Soviet Azerbaijan Sends 27th Convoy

LD0207202390 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Astara (Gilan), July 2, IRNA—The 27th relief convoy from the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan comprising of 12 trucks crossed the border into Iran Monday [2 July] and headed for quake-hit zones. The relief aid includes clothing, shoes, mattresses, pillows, bedding, flour, biscuits, 3.6 tons of rice and sugar, 700 kgs of garlic and 8,000 litres of gasoline and gasoil.

Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan share a common religion, culture, language and history with Iran, and have taken a leading role in providing relief supplies to their quake-stricken brethren in Iran.

A powerful earthquake measuring 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale rocked Gilan and Zanjan provinces on July 21 killing and wounding tens of thousands.

Further Relief Supplies Arrive

LD0307181190 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Relief teams and supplies from groups and organisations based at home and abroad continue to arrive in the quake stricken north-western provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

The Armenian community in Iran has donated Rls. 35 million (Dlrs 500,000) to the red Crescent Society. The sum was presented Tuesday [3 July] by Archbishop Ardak Manukian, who urged his followers to contribute more for the quake victims. He also announced his community' readiness to participate in reconstruction of the affected areas.

Red Crescent also received 450,000 francs in cash and medicines worth 250,000 francs from the non-governmental 'Philanthropic Society of France' whose representatives are currently visiting the quake-hit areas in Iran.

From America, the third consignment of relief got together by non-profit institutions arrived in Tehran from Los Angeles on board the West German Lufthansa airline last night. The shipment worth Dlrs 233,000 includes 3.5 tons of medicines and medical equipment.

Another non-profit foundation in the U.S. is to send a 40-ton consignment of medicine and baby food for the survivors.

The June 21 earthquake which measured 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale has claimed over 100,000 casualties and left half a million people homeless.

In Tokyo, a Japanese steel manufacturing company announced today that it will donate construction machinery valued at Yen 30 million (Dlrs 200,000) to the quake-stricken areas in Iran. The machinery is to arrive within the next few weeks.

The Japanese car manufacturer 'Nissan Motors' too, announced today its decision to donate Yen 20 million (Dlrs 132,000) to Iran's Red Crescent Society.

At the Islamic Republic mission in Karachi, Pakistani Muslims and organisations delivered Rupees 400,000 (Dlrs 20,000) along with clothings, bed sheets, blankets and other needed goods for the quake victims, reports IRNA correspondent from Islamabad Tuesday.

Reports from the United Arab Emirates say that two aircraft loaded with a total of 55 tons of foodstuff, medicines, medical equipments, blankets and clothing left for Tehran today.

In related news, a five-member Algerian team specialized in nutrition and sanitation arrived in Zanjan Province.

Among relief teams leaving for home today after completion of their dedicated efforts were those from the Soviet Autonomous Region of Nakhichevan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Holland based 'Medecin Sans Frontiers' (Medics Without Frontiers). The 51-man Nakhichevan team comprising medics and civil engineers went home after ten days of relief work in the hardest hit city of Tarom-e Olya in Zanjan Province. While the Soviet Azerbaijani team which was one of the first to arrive immediately after the quake struck, left for Baku. [as received] Dr. Miliano of the Medics Without Frontiers, told IRNA upon his departure that Holland has donated a total of 48 tons of medicines and medical equipment for the quake victims.

Safidrud Dam Damaged

LD0307210190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text) The Ministry of Energy announced: Despite the extensive nature of damage inflicted on the water and electricity installations in the quake-stricken areas in Gilan and Zanjan, the needed electricity of all the towns in the stricken area has been restored by making use of all possible means, and at the moment all those towns have been reconnected to the nationwide electricity network. The work on the restoration of the major power generating plants, including the 360 megawatt power generator in Lowshan, has started. Also with the repair work which has been carried out, the drinking water installations in the damaged areas which were under the coverage of the Ministry of Energy have been restored and are being used again.

According to this report, the major recent earthquake and the aftershocks in the region have inflicted some damage on the Safidrud Dam [one of Iran's largest dams which provides irrigation water for rice paddies in the Gilan Province and generates part of the electricity for Tehran], but studies which have been carried out show that the general stability of the dam has not been affected and there is no need to worry. Meanwhile, precautionary measures are being taken and necessary work for the repair of the damage which the dam has sustained has already been started.

The Oil Ministry also announced: The irrigation water needed by the rice paddies within the Safidrud irrigation network has been fully provided for the current year and the irrigation work is continuing as usual.

President Tours Zanjan Province

LD0307124490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning arrived in the quake-striken areas of Zanjan Province to inspect these regions and examine how relief operations are progressing. He met and talked to the quake victims. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani toured several quake striken villages in the districts of (Tarom-e Sofla) and the (Ilat-e Bavazan) of Zanjan Province, and spoke with quake victims. Mr.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was accompanied on this trip by representatives of the esteemed leader and the government's special envoy to the quake striken regions, heads of the Plan and Budget as well as the Environmental Protection organizations, the presidential executive deputy, the managing director of the Red Crescent, and the governor of Zanjan. In the first stage of his tour to the northwestern quake-striken regions, the president arrived in (Bachamyi) in the district of (Ilat-e bavazan),, in the central wards of Takestan, and while inspecting the debris in that village, he was briefed on the problems and difficulties of the quake survivors by the local inhabitants and members of the Islamic Council.

During a gathering of the quake victims of that village who were chanting slogans in support of the esteemed leader and in appreciation of the donations they had received, the president emphasized the need for speedier attention to be given to house the quake victims and attend to the state of livestock breeding in these regions and said: The Government will pay special attention to measures to build houses while studying the conditions of the affected regions from the geographical and geological standpoints.

Continuing his trip, the president arrived in (Taroum-e sofla) and visited the villages of upper Mir Khovan-e, (Orkamkord), and (Sig) which were 100 percent destroyed by the earthquake. While observing the destruction caused by the quake to houses, educational, medical and communications centers in the three villages, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the temporary housing sites of the quake victims and went into their tents and talked to them, getting to know about their housing, agriculture, and animal husbandry problems.

The president then went to the village of Gilvan in the district of Tarom-e Olya and took part in a meeting of the officials of the committees of the Relief Headquarters of the Zanjan quake-striken regions. The meeting heard a report on the activities and operations of the relief headquarters committees of Zanjan Province and certain proposals were advanced to solve the housing, agriculture, and animal husbandry problems of the local inhabitants. Emphasis was placed in buying the products of farmers and providing the necessary facilities to stop river water diversions.

In an interview given during an extensive tour of Gilvan, the president described initial relief operations to the affected regions as good, and said that attending to the quake victims by providing them with tents, foodstuffs and medical needs, was appropriate; and we, too, bearing in mind what opportunities we have before the start of the cold weather, should now carry out the necessary measures to solve the housing problems of the quake victims.

*RESALAT Report on 22 May 90 Session

90AS0100A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 May 90 pp 5, 9, 11

[Text] Legal and Majles Division:

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the plan to change Note 37 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] Budget Law, which the generalities of the plan were passed by the deputies. It must be noted that the two priority [status] of the plan was passed during the previous session.

The second item on the agenda was the continuation of the investigation of the Agriculture Commission in regard to the rejection of the legal plan for the correction of the law for determination of status of disputed lands, subject of Article 56 of the Jungles and Pastures Law. The principle of the plan was not approved and, thus, rejected.

The last item on the agenda was the report of the first round of deliberations of the special commission in regard to the legal plan for the separation and determination of duties of the Water and Agriculture Sectors, which the excerpts of speeches by some of the deputies will be presented [to the readers]. (It must be noted that some of the deputies requested that the plan be delayed for three months. However, their request was rejected by the Islamic Consultative Majles.)

Explanations of the Head of the Special Commission

Mr. Rowhani-Nia, the head of the Special Commission, in explaining this plan stated: The nature of the issue is that investment must be made to harness the heavenly waters that are being wasted. Investment is necessary [for the sake of] these God-given natural resources and the country which is subject to drought and destruction. There should have been planning for this and it should have been tabled at the outset of the Five-Year Plan. In order to achieve this goal we would have needed two things: (1) A unified and strong law, and (2) an executive organization which possesses a revolutionary spirit and a strong popular base. It is our belief that such moves are not possible for rejuvenation of the forests and rejuvenation of the natural resources unless our Muslim and downtrodden farmers are behind the issue in conjunction with our most powerful enforcement organization, which has very intimate contact with our people, villagers, farmers, and tribes. We believe that this organization is [none other than] the Reconstruction Jihad [Organization]. For this reason, we in the special commission delegated to the Reconstruction Jihad the diacritical responsibilities of protecting forests and natural resources, finding sources of water and harnessing it, and division of flood plains.

Mr. Nikfar (Opponent)

Mr. Ahmad Nikfar, the representative of the people of Eqlid was the first opponent of the plan who at the outset of his speech said: The plan is in a shape that the water is being taken from the Ministry of Energy and it becomes, merely, the Ministry of Electricity. The gentlemen who want to support [the bill] are effectively supporting the electricity sector. The other issue is rural rehabilitation. After the victory of the revolution, the

strong advocate of rural rehabilitation services was the Reconstruction Jihad. By passing this bill no one will be in charge of implementing rural reconstruction projects and the [governmental] ministries, with the enormous tasks they have, will not be able to tend to the reconstruction [activities] of the villages as before. However, in my view, if this plan is approved then it means the dissolution of the Reconstruction Jihad. The gentlemen say that, God willing, we will call it the Reconstruction Jihad during the second round [of deliberations]. Paragraph "B" of this plan states that, from the date of passing of this law, the Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad will be renamed to become the Ministry of the Jihad for Expansion of Water, Land, and Natural Resources. Neither the name nor the duties of the new ministry will be or have anything to do with the reconstruction jihad. He also said: The government has put forward a bill to differentiate between the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and [the Ministry of Reconstruction] Jihad—which the single priority [status] of the bill has been approved—and for its investigation, within at most one more month, the results of [the deliberations] of the commission will be presented to the respected Majles. [It will indicate] that by passing this plan practically there will be an end to the shaky [relations] between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jihad and we will achieve our objectives. Then, since the duties of the Jihad and the Ministry of Agriculture are going to be clear and determined, there will be no need for passing this plan.

Mr. Banihashemi (Proponent)

Mr. Banihashemi, the representative of the people of Mashhad, stated that we must not discuss the problems emotionally and by emphasizing generalities. However, [it is best that] we conduct discussions about them on an expert level. In regard to this plan he said: In my view, this plan is one of the suitable decisions taken by the Majles commission and being put before the Majles which entails the salvation of the agriculture sector from its present condition. We are faced with the question that, "In view of having various organizations within the active agricultural sector, why is the situation of our agriculture such?" The report presented by the Ministry of Agriculture states that our natural resources are on the verge of destruction, when the responsibility for natural resources is the task of this ministry. How come no one can answer this? We are witnessing the wasting of much of the national waters. How come no one can resolve these problems? Who will answer these questions? At the present there is no keeper for our natural resources. If we are faced with the destruction of our natural resources, if we see that our land is being put to waste, and if we see that we cannot take any steps in regard to agricultural expansion it is because we have not designated a clear cut responsibility in this sector. We shall give this responsibility to a revolutionary and capable organization which was founded by his holiness the imam and which has a bright history within the context of the revolutionary history of our country, namely the Reconstruction Jihad. We shall give the responsibility [of safeguarding] the water, land, and natural resources to this organization and, also, the agricultural work to the Ministry of Agriculture.

While referring to the water problem in the context of agricultural activities, Mr. Banihashemi said: Regretfully, the limitations stated by the responsible ministries in regard to presentation of plans for the agriculture sector have been that "we do not have water." For the expansion of agricultural growth, we are faced with the shortage of water. However, in regard to this problem, we see that from the 140 billion cubic meters of water which exists in the country, about 70 billion cubic meter of water have been extracted of which perhaps about 90 percent will be utilized in the agriculture sector, but it is not correctly utilized. It was mentioned here that the Ministry of Energy is one of the active organizations that helps the agriculture sector. No, it is not so. It is correct that the Ministry of Energy is the keeper of the water, but this question must be asked of the Ministry of Energy that, "What are the figures of the Ministry of Energy for the Five-Year Plan in regard to improvements?" The issue of water and electricity is merely a mock pipeline that has been set up and now they want to scare the deputies from making important decisions.

Mr. Eslami (Proponent)

At the outset of his speech, explaining the reasons for his opposition, Mr. Eslami said: I ask what was the basis for the creation of the Reconstruction Jihad and has the basis for this movement, which was directed toward reconstruction of the most deprived regions of the country—namely the villages—solved the collection of problems we were facing in the rural areas of the country? Have we achieved the important and essential goal of eradicating deprivation in the villages or not? On the other hand, do we view rural expansion as an essential and important principal in economic expansion and growth of the country? If we answer these general questions, then our discussions about the details will be much simpler. Our argument is that, in separation of duties, we must act in such a way that all forces and possibilities are utilized appropriately and include the problems of the deprived and rural areas within the scope of national problems. We must approach problems and issues in this context. It means that we must not consider only one side of the issues. If we consider these two views, we see that this plan, in generalities, will cause some problems for us—although for rural development and resolution of rural problems this plan may have some positive aspects in connection with water provisions and giving attention to agricultural issues. You see, one of the issues suggested in this plan is that, matters related to water shall be taken away from the Ministry of Energy and be given to the Reconstruction Jihad. It means that, not only the responsibility for water provision and construction of small and large dams is given to the Jihad but also water distribution in the cities will be given to the Jihad as well. This plan can be best useful when there are no problems with

urban water [systems], otherwise rural water problems, naturally, will be placed in a lower priority level.

He then added: It is not easy that today we take away the electrical and water dams from the Ministry of Energy. This means that we cannot say that we, as the Reconstruction Jihad or any name that is suggested by the brothers, will be the keeper of the large dams, will produce the electricity and put it at the disposal of the utilizing ministry. If such is done, first we must look and see what was the process of events which led to the creation of the Ministry of Energy. All of the experts have reached the conclusion that one ministry must be the keeper of the water and electrical dams.

In conclusion, he said: I think the special commission for the composition of the government bill in this regard will put forward the said plan during the second [round of] deliberations. It will be best for the Reconstruction Jihad to take advantage of its forces, capabilities, and expertise.

Movahhedi-Savoji (Proponent)

Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji called this a very valuable plan and said: The people who have worked on this plan have considered the issue both as experts and also with awareness of the national issues and correct moves toward self-sufficiency in agricultural matters.

He added: Regretfully, we have been able to accrue only half of our national requirement for water and the rest is going to waste. If we want to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, we have no other way but to make decisive decisions in regard to agricultural issues. If we cannot correctly utilize the existing national capabilities and God-given blessings, we will be responsible before God, the people, and the future generations.

He addressed the opponents of the plan and said: All over the world a drop of water and a small stretch of land are being fully utilized, but we do not possess such capabilities in our vast country. The plan that has been composed is for addressing this problem. Why do you oppose this plan for the sake of other problems or emotional issues? Is it not true that this plan completely separates the issues concerning water and land? Presently there are many different keepers for water in our country. If we had utilized the existing waters in a correct way, our agricultural situation would have been much better than now.

Davudi-Shamsi (Opponent)

Mr. Davudi-Shamsi, who himself was one of the signatories of this plan, stated his main reason for opposition to the legal plan for the separation and determination of the duties of the water and agricultural sectors as follows: It was the goal of the signatories to compose this plan to reduce the number of ministries—since there are too many ministries and, on the one hand, correct or incorrect policies result in our inability to implement the necessary actions to reduce the number of ministries. On the other hand, after several meetings held during the final stages of the investigation of water and land issues, the government—which was in favor of this plan—did not come to terms with the Ministry of Energy and [as a result] put forward another bill. However, the most important of all reasons is that the agriculture sector must be integrated in a ministry. All our laws are in the direction of correcting the administrative regime, eliminating unnecessary organizations, and utilizing all national capabilities. Several years ago, to correct this organization, adequate studies were conducted by the Center for Administrative Research and they were presented to the government. It was concluded then that the whole of the agriculture sector must be assembled in one ministry. We must maintain the Reconstruction Jihad as a revolutionary institution and a valuable [asset] because its dedicated forces are capable of continuing their work any place.

He rejected the reasons of the special commission in regard to confirmation of this plan and said: If the Reconstruction Jihad were to remain, even as a secondary organization, it can still implement all the water projects. If we take away the water-related issues from the Ministry of Energy, then, the activities of this ministry will be limited only to matters concerning electricity, which will result in shortcomings.

In conclusion, he asked that the deputies not vote for this plan so that, by working on the government-presented bill, a fundamental method can be utilized in this regard.

Rahchamani (Proponent)

In the beginning, Mr. Rahchamani complained about the government for presenting a bill at the same time that the deputies presented a plan, which results in all the work done on this plan by those involved to be in vain.

In connection with the transfer of duties with regard to water to the Ministry of [Reconstruction] Jihad he said: It has been forecast in the Five-Year Plan that 4.8 billion cubic meters of water must be provided for the agriculture sector by the Reconstruction Jihad. Therefore, the problems of saying that the duties related to water must not be transferred to the Reconstruction Jihad and damages to the agriculture sector are connected with dependence.

He added: The Reconstruction Jihad will be very active if it focuses its energy on the sector regarding water. If all capabilities are utilized for expansion of water [provision], it will be more useful than if the Ministry of Energy decides to reinvest in this [matter].

Another point in this plan is that giving the task of natural resources to the Reconstruction Jihad is very important. Our land is undergoing erosion. The area of our pastures is constantly shrinking. If the Ministry of Agriculture wanted to take appropriate measures in regard to these problems, it would have done so by now. The Jungles and Pastures Organization does not have

adequate capabilities. However, the Jihad has the necessary machinery and capabilities that can play an important role in the expansion of natural resources.

He added: Lack of coordination between the Reconstruction Jihad and the Ministry of Roads causes some projects not to be implemented and it is important that such issues are made clear expeditiously.

In conclusion, he said: The government can present all its views during the second round of deliberations, after the approval of the generalities of this plan.

Karim Shafe'i (Opponent)

In opposition, Mr. Shafe'i stated: Matters related to water, land, natural resources (including forests, pastures, and fishing) and seven-member delegations in the water sector, dam construction, control of sub-surface and surface water, construction of electric-water dams, construction of earth dams, and all matters connected with the water and production of electricity in this plan shall be given to the Reconstruction Jihad. The Ministry of Agriculture shall be given the responsibility of farming, domestic animals, and the Tribal Organization. The Ministry of Energy has been given the responsibility of electricity distribution. The main philosophy for creation of the Reconstruction Jihad was rural reconstruction. This main philosophy has been put aside and the gentlemen claim that the generalities should be put to a vote and later we shall attend to the details.

Mr. Shafe'i added: The Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad must explain its capability in regard to production of electricity from water, land preparation, administration of seven-member delegations, and reveal its control, guidance, and planning in thousands of pastures, forests, and the Fishing Company. It must explain with how many engineers and technicians it wants to become the keeper of and administrator of all affairs related to agriculture, fishing, pastures, water, electricity production, and water distribution in thousands of villages? With what implementation capability? With what expertise and past record of success? You [must] study the earth dams built by the Jihad and see how many of them are constructed in accordance with technical specifications and engineering planning? What has been the depth of the dams built so far? Ask to see what plans have been drawn up and what capabilities the Reconstruction Jihad possess for the future expansion of thousands of pastures across the country and for construction of dams in the decades to come.

Continuing he added: You want to strengthen an institution but, instead, you weaken it. You weaken it for the reason that you transfer the responsibilities to it. It must assess to see if it has the executive capability or not. If it cannot succeed, then that institution will be weakened. It means that it was incapable of fulfilling its responsibilities correctly.

Khodakaram Jalali (Proponent)

The next proponent of the plan was Mr. Jalali who referred to the statement of the [late] Imam that, "Agricultural self-sufficiency is the prelude to political independence. Planners and officials of the country must take notice of this important matter." He then said: It is very unpleasant for a country and society that leads the Islamic revolution in the world and takes steps in the direction of the goals of the Islamic revolution to be dependent upon foreign countries for its consumer goods and for filling the stomachs of its people.

As to what is really our path to self-sufficiency, with many discussions in various circles and among experts in the Majles and the government, I have reached the conclusion that we cannot achieve self-sufficiency unless we can invigorate and move on two pivotal sectors and those are water and land and natural resources. Rural expansion and revitalization of agriculture are dependent upon these two factors.

He also added: If we wish to expand the villages, where should we begin? [Can it be done by] other than provision of water, harnessing water, expansion of water and land resources, prevention of land erosion, and rejuvenation of forests and pastures? Is it not the task of reconstruction of ruins that has been given to the Reconstruction Jihad by the imam? Can there be reconstruction of ruins without rejuvenation of forests and pastures and harnessing of waters? It is not at all possible for us to save the country from the present situation in the agriculture sector unless we pay full attention to the issue of water for this sector and the natural resources.

He then said: From 92,000 hectares of agricultural land which was established 20 years ago (according to the available statistics) only 18,000 hectares in primary and secondary networks have been planted. It means that nothing has been done on 74,000 hectares of agricultural land under dams that have been established many years ago. If we want to consider the future of this country to be dependent upon agriculture and if we want to consider agriculture to be the pivotal point of the independence, we must take notice that water and land must be given priority.

Mr. Jalali then defended the Reconstruction Jihad and said: Is it that the Reconstruction Jihad wants to fulfill this responsibility by utilizing only the present forces? We said that all specialized forces in the Ministry of Energy, in the water sector, along with all of the Jungles and Pastures Organization, which will be separated from the Ministry of Agriculture and will be attached to the Reconstruction Jihad, and with cooperation and coordination among these specialized forces the country's problems shall be resolved. If we question the capability and activities of the Jihad then, God forbid, [we] must also question the revolution.

According to this report, the continuation of the investigation of this plan was postponed until today's session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. Also in this session,

the receipt of the question of Messrs. Rashidian and Nurollah 'Abedi from the Minister of Petroleum regarding the sale of pipes in Masjed-e Soleyman was announced.

Regretful Lack of Solidarity, Weakness in Management, and Individualism in Cultural Matters Have Dealt a Hard Blow Against the Country

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mostafa Morsali, the representative of the people of Abhar, who at the outset of his speech [greeted the late Imam and his followers in great length] and said: Greetings to the exalted leadership of the revolution, the tested student and trainee of the Imam, the man of Holy War and piety and the hidden Godly treasure for continuation of the line of the Imam and the regime, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. Greetings to the brave and appreciative Islamic nation, especially the victors of the grand and pride-inducing victory of 24 May, the victors of Khorramshahr.

He then referred to the economic difficulties and said: The economic problems and difficulties of our Islamic society have become special sensitivities, and it is regretful if neglect and carelessness result in dire consequences. Poverty, corruption, indigence, and heresy are all neighbors. This problem will not be resolved with slogans, interviews, recitation of numbers and statistics, stating analysis of programs, empty and false promises. Despite acceptance of a bright and hopeful horizon of economic programs of the government and taking bold and courageous steps, the rise in prices is steep, weak sectors of the society live in pain and agony, inflation is rampant, purchasing power is declining, unemployment, corruption, decline in the marriage rate, rise in divorce statistics, problems resulting from psychological and mental disorders are serious threats to the government of His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani—who is one of the leaders of the movement, the majestic holder of the banner of the revolution and an intellectual familiar with the pains, sufferings, and secrets of the society—to the point that he is prompted to devise emergency plans in order to achieve immediate relief and change. In regard to housing, land and cheap construction materials for small units and cooperatives, public necessities, foodstuff, clothing, road transportation, hygienic tools, school books, educational aid, rehabilitation and drug tariffs, and also long term and fundamental economic plans—which we are tied up with their discussions and in this regard the Majles and government must be mobilized to defeat the dragon of high prices—by being realistic, correction of laws and regulations, giving the government an open hand, strengthening a healthy management, purging weak individuals, serious battle against opportunist elements, hoarding, extortion, mismanagement and administrative and financial corruptions. The judicial branch must be explicit in its dealings with the public and discuss all that happens with them. The government, with the strong support it enjoys from the exalted leadership, the people, and the Majles, can take care of the problems and barriers that are created, God forbid, by certain elements or as a result of some trends. Our devoted people accept and have great affection for the government. However, they have some legitimate expectations also.

While pointing out that cultural issues are specially delicate and require strong, capable, and energetic elements, he said: The keepers of the cultural heritage of the Islamic society abroad and in the country are responsible for heavy interferences [in areas] ranging from education and training, the centers of higher education, and the respective organizations, the Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propagation Organization, the Voice and Vision, [theological] centers and the clergy, press and publications, and Friday prayer leaders and societies. Regretfully, lack of harmony and a unique policy, management shortcomings, wrong selections, individualism and factional games, carelessness, and disregard are causes of serious damage. The [Ministry of] Islamic Guidance has not had any success in this regard and it seems that it does not intend to understand its mission. The cultural counselors abroad, in most cases, have not had adequate efficiency. Domestically, in the areas of art, cinema, tourism, introduction of national scientific, cultural, artistic and historic treasures, depiction of spiritual identities, absorption of researchers and scholars it has been most unfortunate. The management of the said organization in some provinces do not even have the capability of maintaining books. They have usurped what was not rightfully theirs in the shadow of [their] connections. They will certainly be objective if they give some people the responsibility of evaluating people and their works. In many instances the Propagation Organization has been content with a name and a sign and lacks any visible traces. There is no news of propagation classes, and it is regretful that its gracious officials do not pay attention to the notices [warnings] of humble and truthful individuals. It is obvious that in the absence of supervision, control, evaluation, and separation from the task to which they have been assigned not much more can be expected.

Also by pointing out the cultural issues of universities and the recent events in Tehran university, Mr. Morsali said: The universities are burning with the excitement of learning the Islamic culture. The open gates of universities in adherence to the selection policy requires more studies. The situation of the cultural program, its responsibility and supervision has not been determined. The cross section of the so-called dedicated keepers of the culture have nothing to show except imposition. The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution must think of a solution. The representative offices of the exalted leadership in the universities are subject to disinterest by some officials, in spite of masses of Muslim students who, empty handed, without adequate facilities and determination of duties, are facing deliberate obstructions and inconveniences and at times disputes and insults with the five-year experienced do-gooders, intelligent, unpretentious, and expecting nothing in return,

and dressed in the favors of the high position of leadership which if they found it advisable if not the dispatch of these noble orders to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, the boundaries and limits of authority and duty shall be determined. [as published] The recent events in Tehran University saddened me and I announce my repulsion regarding this matter. I request careful and precise study of this problem.

He then referred to the issue of foreign policy and said: Our strategy regarding foreign policy must be composed carefully and evaluated continuously [in matters] such as method of communication, quality, level, strength or weakness, cultural contacts, scientific exchanges, economic transactions, technical treaties, priorities, and sensitivities regarding the adoption of positions, clashes between governments, mass media, safeguarding Islamic and freedom movements, etc. Despite the confirmation of our deep relations with India, we cannot be silence in regard to India's Muslims and the Muslim people of Kashmir. We disregard India's threat to Pakistan and discount India's efforts to suppress the independent Islamic movement of Kashmir, per the allegations of Pakistan, and request that the matter be resolved peacefully.

Mr. Morsali also added: Despite a great desire for pilgrimage [to Mecca], we cannot accept it without vindication. Despite our willingness to expand our relations with our neighbors, we cannot be indifferent to the trials of innocent Kuwaiti Shi'ites, and the ugly and vengeful manner of treatment by the media and some officials of Turkey. Despite our willingness to assist in the freedom of hostages in Lebanon, we cannot be indifferent to the fate of the imprisoned and innocent Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims. Despite good faith and neighborly relations with our northern neighbor, we cannot remain silent in regard to Afghanistan and the injustices that are being applied on the Muslims.

Continuing his speech, in connection with the decisive approach of the Judicial Branch toward violators he said: The Judicial Branch has had admirable moves. We hope that it can hold effective, decisive, and speedy investigations of speculators and the stagnant files and prevent the interference of irresponsible elements in the judicial process. [Also, we hope] that it reacts strongly toward violators, swindlers, go-betweens, and opportunists. For example, the issue of the "Padideh" company which was brought before the housing commission and which was referred to the Judicial Branch by the respected Majles speaker. And, in regard to the main elements of the attack on the Abhar Judicial Organization, which has been sitting stagnant in Tehran and the poor miserable, unfortunate people who it was only their desire, wish, and instinct and they have been under the encouragement of certain agents must be tried and punished [as published]. However, since the main culprits have been connected with centers of power that matter was left unattended.

Concluding his speech, the representative of the people of Abhar gave some notices to the government of His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani regarding the mismanagement and factional games in Zanjan province and requested that the president fulfill his promise regarding the executive management of the province.

Only Those Who Measure Their Work and Behavior with the Imam's Standards Can Claim the Support and Following of the Imam

Mr. 'Alireza Rostami, from the Sonqor va Kolia'i constituency, was the second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He started his speech first by greeting the spirit of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, and respectful greeting to the exalted leadership, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i.

He then added: Khordad [22 May-21 June] has begun and the holy spirit of that leader of martyrs is witnessing our deeds and behavior. Khordad is the month of emotions, mourning, sadness, tears, legends, and martyrs of Khorramshahr. At the outset of the first anniversary of the ascension of the holy spirit of the Imam, with permission from the respected Majles, I thought about what are our most fundamental and important needs. On various occasions the Imam gave guidance to responsible officials and functionaries of the regime, and realization of the objectives of the Islamic revolution are not possible unless through implementation of those advice. Anyone who loves the Imam and follows the orders of the exalted leadership of the revolution, no matter what trench he serves in, must place the the messages and the will of the Imam before him and in all honesty and bravely, as a social necessity, evaluate himself.

Evaluation helps us to find out about our weak points and try to correct them. To recognize our strong points and try to strengthen them. Purify the motivations and choose the best way for correcting [our] methods. No group and society, institution and ministry can be certain of the correctness of its activities without precise and continuous evaluation of its deeds in accordance with the advice and guidance of the Imam. Only those who evaluate their work and behavior with the everlasting decrees of the Imam can claim his support and following. They must measure and see to what degree they are following the dear Imam's orders and to what degree they take steps in line with the guidance of the exalted leader of the revolution. In this regard and on the occasion of the first anniversary of his passing—while inviting all those concerned to pay serious attention to this fundamental problem and in line with implementation of this request—I ask all brother and sister deputies to study once again his holiness' messages to the first, second, and third Majles in order to take better advantage of that holy spirit.

In the continuation of his speech, the speaker noted some excerpts of His Holiness the Imam's messages and said: The Imam, in the first lines of his first message to the first Majles called this the Majles of justice. In this regard the Imam says: "I hope that this Majles, with the

blessings of this auspicious day, can be the Majles of justice, following Islam and to the advantage of Muslims and Islamic countries." In another part, His Holiness the Imam says: "You dear friends are representatives of a nation who thinks of nothing but the great Islam and godly Islamic justice and your election is for implementation of Islamic justice." In a message to the second Majles, after mentioning the sacrifices and braveries of the dear nation, the grand imam says: "Respected deputies must take precise notice that they have taken on a massive and fateful responsibility, the suitable and Godly conclusion of which is not possible unless through great Jihad."

Mr. Rostami added: "In his message to the first Majles, the imam by saying, "You must confront, in full strength, the satanic forces that ruled our fate at the time of the sycophant past regime and do not fear any power except the Almighty and do not think of anything but the national interests," teaches us the way of resistance and shows us the tools of resistance. His holiness the Imam in his message to the second Majles says: "If you wish to confront the wrong without fear and defend the right without any influence of the superpowers and their advance weapons and without allowing satans with their conspiracies to scare you away, you must get accustomed to living simply and avoid giving your heart to possessions, grandeur, and titles. Most great men who served their nations lived simply and did not care about worldly obsessions." The imam demonstrates the responsibilities and the direction of the Majles in his message to the first Majles as follows: "Let us see what you and your elected government will do with the downtrodden nation who, with the blessing of its revolution, freed us all from isolation." His Holiness the Imam in his message to the first Majles says: "It is expected that attention to the affairs of the downtrodden, which form a great majority of this innocent nation, will be placed at the top of all schedules." In a part of his message to the second Majles, the Imam says: "Resolution of the very important economic problems, fighting inflation, solving the housing and land problem, and ever more attention to the affairs of the downtrodden and low-income people, including the respected individuals who work in the government with limited salaries, these hard-working employees the majority of whom do not have any other source of income and are indeed from the deprived sector, are among the responsibilities of the Majles. Also, resolving the agriculture problems, which are among the most pressing national problems, is the task of the government with the support of the Majles." In his message to the third Majles, the Imam says: "God willing, the respected deputies of the Majles have been and are aware of their heavy responsibility and the mission in regard to this important matter and are fully aware of what the regime and the people expect of them. It must be said that the collective Islamic wishes and expectations of the people from the Majles is alleviation of difficulties and injustices and changing the complex administrative regime of the the country. [These] are among the most legitimate wishes of the people and should be taken seriously." In another part of his message to the third Majles the imam says: "Before taking on bills, articles, and non-essential matters, the respected deputies should think about the main and key problems of the country. In accordance with dear Islam, they should move in commissions and by devising bills and planning laws in such a way to resolve the essential problems of the country and devise the fundamental policies of the country in cultural, economic, social, and political matters in line with the assistance to the deprived people and eradication of injustices. This is a Majles that must implement the no East, no West policy in the bipolar world and [also] the one that brought into the scene political, social, economic, and cultural decrees of Islam that had been forgotten or isolated for centuries."

Mr. Rostami reminded: The imam says: "The Majles that does these things and possess these characteristics will be the successful one. It is such a Majles that requires extraordinary psychological power, the ability to comprehend complex worldly matters and decisive decision-making power without any tendency toward the two poles of atheism and capitalism. A power strong enough to follow the right even if the whole world goes toward wrong. A power that disregards rumors and deceptions. There is need for dedicated experts and specialists in the commissions of such a Majles and it must invite experts in all the fields, especially in the fields of foreign policy and economy—which is the most important matter—for consultations.

Today, as in the past, the country and its administrative regime require brave approaches for solving problems. There are many temptations that might deprive us of reaching our greater goals that are before us. We hope that this Majles, with coordination and cooperation among its deputies and, also, with strong connection with managers, executives, and experts and by taking advantage of the views and consultations with the respected Council of Guardians can strive to solve the problems of the deprived and the barefoot. And, so that it can benefit from strength, decisiveness, and speed in the overall process of recognizing the interests which is a great, blessed, and fruitful support for our country.

Deputy from Khorramshahr Requested the Special Attention of Officials to the Problems of the War Victims

Mr. Yunes Mohammadi was the third and last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He began his speech with readings from a chapter from the Koran and stated that two coinciding significant events—the martyrdom of Imam Sadeq and the passing of the imam—shows that the Islamic nation of Iran, by getting inspiration from the human-preparing school of Imam Sadeq and by following the Imam and by depending on the everlasting power of God, succeeded in liberating Khorramshahr on 24 May 1982]from the bloody grip of the Ba'athist heretics.

He added: Imam said: "Khorramshahr was liberated by God. Deep faith, sincerity in deeds, solidarity in the ranks and hearts like a solid foundation led the Muslim nation of Iran to victory and liberated Khorramshahr.

In continuation the speaker added: Brothers and sisters, let us return to the year 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983]. Let us break the dark eyeglasses and do not add more to the infected complexes of clannish and political disputes. [And let us] become like what we were at the time of year 1361 and the years past so that the giving God shall shower us with His blessings and we can, in harmony and as a single fist, achieve victory in the war against the sworn enemies of Islam and Muslims and the enormous moral, social, and economic problems that are created by our enemies. Let us join hands and follow our great leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the straight path [mapped out] by the [late] Imam and instead of trying to protect ourselves and our faction, let us protect Islam, the regime of the Islamic Republic, and the honorable people of Iran.

The representative of the people of Khorramshahr, about the conquest of Khorramshahr, said: 24 May is the anniversary of the victory, respect, and honor for our nation and the anniversary of disappointment for enemies of the Islamic Revolution. We shall hold this great day in the highest of regards. This is the day that enemies were defeated in all military, political, and social dimensions and were disappointed about the destruction of the revolution. On the occasion of this great day, I congratulate the exalted leader of the Islamic Republic and the whole of the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation. However, Khorramshahr itself, which was occupied by the enemy for 575 days, along with its citizens endured many sufferings which must be recorded in the bloody history of the revolution. The beautiful and [prosperous] city of Khorramshahr was destroyed and looted by the enemy, and as a result of many injustices done to its citizens the dear imam called it the "Innocent Khorramshahr." Regretfully, not many are aware of the difficulties and pains of Khorramshahr and its war refugees, the innocent who are burdened with the full load of the difficulties of the imposed war.

The representative of the people of Khorramshahr in continuation added: Dear brothers, respected deputies! We have on numerous occasions defended the downtrodden from behind this podium and glorified the respected families of martyrs, POW's, MIA's, and self-sacrificers. However, not once have we remembered these forgotten heroes so as to soothe the pains of victims of the war. This is at a time when the deprivation of the deprived sectors is as a result of natural, climatic, and geographic factors as a result of injustices of the monarchy, but the deprivation of the war victims is a political one. They lost all their belongings for the sake of the Islamic revolution and the very fabric of their lives was torn. Regretfully, in isolation and loneliness, they live in pain in other places.

When war victims face a problem, governor-generals, governors, lieutenant-governors, mayors, and all the other officials tell them to go to the Refugee Foundation and say to them that their problems do not concern them. When they go to the foundation, the officials consider the shortage of credit to be the reason for the lack of solution to the problems. Regretfully, this year without any reason 3 billion [currency not specified] was cut from the refugee budget. For this reason, the respected administrator of the foundation in a letter indicated that if this problem cannot be somehow resolved you will surely witness cuts in other services. He has asked for help from the respected deputies and, especially, deputies from the war-stricken regions. In turn, I ask the respected deputies and, especially, the speaker of the Majles who in the month of Esfand [20 February-20 March] gave the promise of assistance, for their assistance to resolve this problem.

In his plea for help to the nation's officials, Mr. Mohammadi stated: I ask the great leader, president, speaker of the Majles, head of the judicial branch, and all the deputies and officials to help so that the refugees are not subject to more pain. From 1.2 million victims of war about 700,000 are self-sufficient because they are tradesmen, employees, or merchants and the government has not helped them in any way. They make a living despite their losses with small incomes and the rest of the refugees who are under the cover [of assistance] receive 15 tomans per day which, with the present inflation, is not adequate to even feed a chicken.

I request from all our deputies, ministers, Friday prayer leaders, and officials to assist the Refugee Foundation in resolving the problems of the war victims otherwise, on the day of reckoning, they will hold all of us to our acts.

The speaker then referred to the problems of Khorramshahr and briefly counted them as follows:

1. I ask the respected president to personally take on the responsibility of reconstruction of Khorramshahr by mobilizing all forces as was done during the war. Otherwise, the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and other war-stricken regions will take many years.

2. I ask Mr. Zavare'i, the respected head of the Documents and Deeds Registration Organization, to act in regard to the property deeds of the people of Khorramshahr because one of the problems and obstacles for reconstruction is lack of documents as a result of destruction of the Registration Office of Khorramshahr.

3. I ask the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to act as soon as possible for fumigation of Khorramshahr and other war-stricken areas in order to prevent many problems that might occur as a result of lack of hygiene.

4. I ask the Administrative Affairs Organization to pay more attention to the brothers and sisters who are enduring the pain and thousands of difficulties and soldier-like are the scouts for reconstruction. Regretfully, it is not clear why their hardship perks have been cut back.

5. I ask the respected Ministry of Commerce and the Headquarters For Reconstruction of War Zones to act on sending cooling equipment to these areas otherwise, in view of the severe heat, nothing can be achieved there.
6. I ask the exalted leader to order the restrictions for the return of people to parts of Mino Island, Arvandkenar, western shore of Karun, and west of Khorramshahr be lifted. The citizens are eagerly seeking to reconstruct their regions.
7. I ask the Reconstruction Headquarters to act on fundamental work in the war-stricken regions, especially in areas of employment, reconstruction, and manufacturing activities which will encourage the people and motivate people to return.
8. I ask the respected Ministry of Commerce to act on resolving the problems of the refugee sweet-makers.
9. I ask the respected head of the Foundation for the Affairs of the War Refugees to investigate the fundamental problems in order to make adequate restoration for possible injustices and also resolve the problem of the sailors.
10. I ask the exalted leader to pay more attention to the war fronts because without military backing it is useless to sit behind the negotiation table. By banking on power and military support, talking with the enemy must be from the position of strength. The imam said that today, with the liberation of Khorramshahr, our nation and government speaks from the position of strength. In commemoration of this day, I ask that more attention be given to the combatants of Islam.

The Letter of the Majles Deputies Denouncing the Recent Massacre of Palestinians

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We are from Him and we shall return to Him

The recent brutal massacre of Muslim Palestinian workers at the hands of the blood-thirsty agents of Zionism in the occupied territories is a reminder of their numerous crimes, especially in Dir-Yassin, Sabra, and Shatilla. In all shamelessness this massacre and barbaric killings are taking place under the security umbrella of America which, under various circumstances, has exercised its veto power in order to save Israel from condemnation. The deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles in following the exalted leadership, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, condemn this ghastly crime, declare their sympathy with the heroic Palestinian people and warn Arab and Islamic governments to break this deadly silence and for the solution of the Palestinian problem do not pay attention to the orders of America. Israel and America are among the heretics and their condemnation, according to strict Koranic decrees, is required of all Muslims. However, it is regretful that Saudi rulers prevent Iranian pilgrims from participating in the hajj and by forbidding them from demonstrating against America and Israel—with the excuse that there are no heretics in Mecca—prove their subordination and service to world arrogance. We praise the decisive position of the people of Palestine in their just struggle and unequivocally support them. Liberation of the occupied territories from the grip of Israel and America rests with the people of Palestine with the support of the Islamic governments that believe in the Palestinian issue.

Message of 140 Deputies To the Congress of Islamic Students Societies from Across the Country

Islamic students societies are among the valuable institutions that before the revolution defended true Mohammadan Islam, the deprived, and the downtrodden. The mission of Islamic Societies in universities is to spread the pure truth of Islam and high values of this school [of thought], to spread the principals and goals of the Islamic revolution and alertness in the face of many conspiracies and deviations by enemies. The revolutionary act of the students in rubbing America's face in the dirt during the capture of the den of spies—which was referred to by our dear imam as the second revolution—conduct of the cultural revolution in the universities and educational environments, fighting against anti-revolution political forces in the universities, and being present in the socio-political institutions of the regime are indicative of the important role that the Islamic students societies have in protecting the revolution and the independence of the regime. It is for this reason that this sacred university institution was and will be supported by the exalted leader and founder of the revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, and the exalted leadership, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. Therefore we, the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles, in order to safeguard the achievements of the revolution, to prevent the prevalence of the spirit of carelessness among the younger generation and the effective student body, and to foster capable and dedicated revolutionary managers in the future, emphasize the need for support and cohesiveness of this sacred institution in the atmosphere of universities which, along with theological centers, are one of the two fundamental pillars of of the Islamic revolution. In this regard, we ask the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution to minimize the overlapping of responsibilities—by approving the executive guidelines and duties—and allow for the constructive and unhindered activities of the Islamic student societies which have always acted as a politico-cultural arm of the regime. We seriously warn them not to take lightly the danger of creating political groups which have no roots and other such trends that are aimed at creating divisions in and weakening the ranks of the Islamic student societies. This will be a severe blow against the political well-being of the universities and the Islamic solidarity of the students. We also vehemently ask the revolutionary students who are united under the banner of the Islamic societies to spread their spiritual influence and invite all dedicated students and university teachers to confront, as before, the increasing [word not clear] of bully capitalists, the God-forsaken wealthy, the reactionaries and the pretentious clergy, the followers of American Islam, the hypocrites and opportunists, and safeguard the grand ideals and the line of his holiness the imam and be the guarantors of protectors of the sacred blood of the martyrs of the revolution and Islam.

Letter of 139 Majles Deputies

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Greetings to the respected Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles and the respected leadership of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Due to the importance and urgency of the matter regarding the investigation of the situation concerning tribesmen armed by the military and law-enforcement forces—especially in border regions—we, a group of deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles, report that as a result of the wrong and nonjudicious analysis of some political and military officials of the frontier regions of the Islamic Republic bandits, tribesmen, and chieftains—who were connected with the regime of the Shah in the past and who (according to the late imam) owe more to this revolution than they can afford to pay back—have been armed by the military and law-enforcement forces under the program of arming tribes. However, much evidence and the attached supportive documents prove that these [bandits], instead of defending the Islamic Republic, are using the same weapons supplied by the government to strike against the lives and properties of innocent farmers and tribesmen ranging from Fars, Turk, Kurd, Lor, and Baluch and, every so often, they target the hezbollahi elements with their weapons. We the signatories of this letter request that a plan be devised and arrangements be made in order to, first, disarm and punish such individuals whose violations against the Muslim people's rights have been proven and, second, limit the power and impose disciplinary restrictions on those who have not yet killed any innocent persons in order to prevent them from returning to arrogant characteristics and dare to violate the rights of farmers. Of course, no one is against the tribes and only the mistreatments must be stopped.

Pakistan

Bhutto To Begin Six-Nation OIC Tour 11 Jul

BK0307061590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto leaves Islamabad on a six-nation tour on 11 July. She will visit Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Morocco, and Algeria. The visit is to brief leaders of the brotherly Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] countries on the Kashmir question and muster their support for Pakistan's stand on the issue.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the prime minister's visit is part of the diplomatic campaign launched by the present government to seek complete understanding by leaders of the Islamic countries of the causes underlying the present turmoil in occupied Kashmir.

Rival Groups Blame Bhutto for Sindh Unrest

BK3006052390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] In Pakistan, rival Sindhi and Muhajir ethnic groups held separate antigovernment demonstrations in Sindh Province yesterday. Both the groups blamed the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, for the ongoing ethnic violence in the province. More than 400 people have been killed in group clashes in the last two months. In Bhit Shah, 200 km north of Karachi, a big rally was organized by the radical Jeay Sindh Movement. The participants in the rally charged Ms. Bhutto with betraying the interests of Sindh, the province to which she belongs. The protesters also demanded the release of Mr. Kader Magsi, who was arrested for allegedly plotting the massacre of 250 people in Hyderabad city in 1988.

In Karachi, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement held another rally condemning Ms. Bhutto for the deteriorating situation in the province.

Meanwhile, a major clash took place between the customs and immigration officials at Karachi airport late last night which resulted in serious injuries to several persons. The Army was called out to restore law and order in the airport premises. The trouble arose when the immigration staff allegedly obstructed the customs staff in apprehending a prominent smuggler about whom they had received a tip-off.

Bhutto Tours Sindh, Speaks on Situation

BK0307154790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said that her government believes in the supremacy of law and it will not allow anybody to take the law into his own hands. She was talking to newsmen at Sewan Sharif [in Sindh] this afternoon. The prime minister said that under the era of the present democratic government there is no political prisoner in the country and nobody has been arrested on political grounds. She added, however, if anyone has been arrested under the law, he should approach courts for justice.

Answering a question about the Kalabagh Dam project, she said that without unanimous consent of the people of all four provinces the project cannot be started. She said one should accept another's point of view in the spirit of brotherhood.

The prime minister said the situation in Sindh will soon be brought under control. She emphasized to the people that they should create an atmosphere of brotherhood and cooperate with the government. About the families affected by the recent disturbances in Karachi and Hyderabad, she said arrangements are being made for the rehabilitation of the affected families and they will be given all possible assistance.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the Manchchar Lake project will be completed with Chinese assistance.

She announced grants of 1 million rupees for Daddu Municipal Committee, 100,000 rupees for Daddu Bar Association, and 50,00 rupees each for Sewan Bar Association and Local Press Club. Members of national and provincial assemblies and Pakistan People's Party workers delegation also met with the prime minister and apprised her of their problems. She received petitions from many people concerning their problems and issued instructions to solve these problems.

Answering a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that both India and Pakistan have forwarded proposals to each other to defuse tension in their relations.

U.S. Senator Cranston Meets With Bhutto 1 Jul

BK0107163190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has reiterated that Pakistan favors peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and defusing of tension between Pakistan and India. For this, it is necessary to redeploy forces and adopt confidence-building measures. She was talking to the U.S. senator, Mr. Alan Cranston, who called on her in Islamabad today. They discussed developments in South Asia, particularly the situation in held Kashmir and the continuing Afghan problem. The prime minister said developments in Indian-held Kashmir were surely indigenous, and the earlier India realized it, it would be better. She categorically denied Pakistan's involvement in the popular uprising of Kashmiri Muslims against Indian subjugation. She hoped that some of the issues will be discussed in the foreign secretaries' talks due to be held this month.

The prime minister explained to the U.S. senator the rationale of the Afghan Interim Government election plan and said it provided the best possible settlement in Afghanistan.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto described Pakistan's nuclear program as of peaceful nature and apprised the senator of the proposals made to India by Pakistan to ensure nonproliferation in South Asia. She told the senator that Pakistan was not in favor of nuclear energy for military purposes and asked him to help in ensuring a nuclear-free South Asia. The prime minister thanked the senator for support to the democratic government of Pakistan and appreciated his role in strengthening Pakistan-America relations.

Calls On President

BK0207115990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said durable peace would return to Kashmir only if the core problem of the right of self-determination of the people in the area is redressed in accordance with the UN resolution. He was talking to the visiting U.S. senator, Alan Cranston, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The president told the senator about the genesis of the problem [and] the pledges made by India at bilateral and international fora to settle the issue through a plebiscite. He also recalled the international commission in this regard and remarked that the world community had an obligation to see to it that promises were kept and commitments fulfilled.

On the American senator's request, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan also briefed him on the efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Afghanistan problem.

French Premier's Special Envoy Meets Bhutto

BK2706035690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Developments in the South Asian region, particularly the situation in Kashmir and Afghanistan, were reviewed at a meeting between Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Jean de Lipkowsky, the visiting special envoy of the French prime minister, in Islamabad last night. They also briefly discussed Indian-Pakistani relations.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction that France was taking keen interest in Asia, and said that Third World countries have high hopes for France because it understands their point of view and has supported their stand at various forums. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said there is great potential for enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The special envoy said that despite the new changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, France would continue to provide assistance to Third World countries.

Meets Ishaq Khan

BK2706164390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] The French prime minister's special envoy, Mr. Jean de Lipkowsky, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed cooperation between Pakistan and France with special focus on economic and commercial relations. Possibilities were explored for further cooperation and French economic assistance to Pakistan in agro-based industries, communication, transport, and power sectors.

There were also discussions on current developments in Europe and Mr. Lipkowsky assured the president that the French interest and commitments to third world countries like Pakistan would not diminish as a result of these developments.

Sri Lanka

Communique Details LTTE Encounters in Northeast

BK0307115590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] No major encounters were reported between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the northern and eastern provinces. However, during the last 24 hours ending 12:00 noon yesterday, in the Puttalam District, northwest of (Manichikatchi), security forces advancing toward Mannar had an encounter with the terrorists. The security forces lost two soldiers killed in action, and three others were injured. In this encounter, eight LTTE terrorists died.

According to a communique issued by the Information Department, the LTTE terrorists continued to attack the Jaffna Fort with mortars, RPG's [rocket propelled grenades], and small arms. Six policemen have sustained injuries due to mortar fire. Some damage had been caused to the building inside the fort due to firing.

In the Eastern Province, the security forces continued with their clearing and cordon and search operation. At Tandiadi in Pottuvil, three LTTE terrorists leaving a boat were shot dead by the Special Task Force. The boat—with the weapons that were in it—was taken over by the Special Task Force. At Amparai, a foot patrol of the security forces engaged a group of LTTE terrorists and killed three of them. In Batticaloa, the security forces were engaged in flushing out LTTE terrorists from various hideouts. It is reported that their latest strategy is to merge with the civilian population. Civilians are warned not to harbor or provide shelter to any terrorist or strangers. In Trincomalee, the LTTE terrorists attacked Mutur police station.

The communique further said that a national consensus has emerged on the need to wipe out terrorism from Sri Lanka. Even in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, the people are responding to this national priority in many ways. (?Banners) have come up from all parts of the island, pledging the solidarity of the people to the security forces. There have been numerous inquiries from people of different walks of life offering their services to work in hospitals, refugee camps, and to provide logistical support to the security forces.

Premadasa Willing To Resume Talks

BK0407093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 4 (AFP)—At least 20 Tamil rebels and three soldiers were killed in fierce fighting as Sri Lankan security forces made halting advances despite heavy resistance from guerrillas, military officials said Wednesday [4 July]. Eighteen guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were gunned down Tuesday [3 July] in a battle near a Tiger hideout in the eastern coastal district of Trincomalee, a military spokesman here said. He said three soldiers were also killed and seven LTTE cadres captured during the fighting, which erupted when army soldiers were moving towards rebel positions near a highway. Seven other soldiers were wounded.

In neighbouring Ampara district, security forces repulsed an LTTE attack and killed two guerrillas, the spokesman said, adding that two other soldiers were wounded elsewhere.

Reports of the renewed violence followed a statement by President Ranasinghe Premadasa in which he indicated Colombo's readiness to resume peace talks with the powerful LTTE, which is now fighting for control of the Tamil-majority Northeast.

"Now the door is open for anyone to enter the democratic process," the state-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) quoted him as telling a public meeting in central Kandy district late Tuesday. The president said his government was "prepared to consult the people, consult all sections in matters concerning public interest so that we may find solutions acceptable to the majority of the people."

"Is the LTTE genuinely interested in entering the democratic process? If so, it is now up to them to give up their faith in the bullet and trust the ballot," he said.

Colombo's peace talks with the LTTE, begun in April 1989, ended abruptly after the guerrillas seized hundreds of policemen June 11, provoking a military confrontation that has reportedly left more than 1,200 people dead.

Mr. Premadasa said the Tigers should participate in proposed elections for a new regional administration in the northeastern province if they believed in democracy. "The whole world is now keenly watching the response of the LTTE to the attempt by the government to allow the people in the North and East to elect their representatives without any further delay," he added.

The now-defunct northeastern administration was controlled by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, an anti-Tiger group that came to power in November 1988 elections boycotted by the LTTE.

The military spokesman said security forces had seized a large stock of weapons, including mortars, hand grenades and mines, from a fortified rebel bunker in Trincomalee.

Security Forces Reportedly Kill Over 50 Rebels

BK0407131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the security forces killed over 50 LTTE men in the Eastern Province today in two separate incidents. Security sources in Colombo said that 18 LTTE men and three soldiers were killed in an encounter near Trincomalee. The Sri Lankan Air Force fired at four boats carrying LTTE men in the Batticaloa region, killing 30 to 40 LTTE cadres. In Jaffna, the Air Force

continued to destroy LTTE hideouts and bunkers around Jaffna Fort and the Palaly air base. The mopping-up operation in the Eastern Province is being carried out in the Trincomalee district, while the operation in the Amparai and Batticaloa districts has been almost completed.

Wijeratne Comments on LTTE Control in North

BK0507100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 5 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government admitted Thursday [5 July] that Tamil rebels are in control of large tracts in the north but said security forces were pursuing them in jungles elsewhere. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters here that security forces controlled only a military garrison, an air base and a harbour in the northern Jaffna peninsula. The peninsula is a stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which resumed its separatist campaign June 11 after more than a year of peace talks with Colombo.

"Other areas (in the peninsula) are controlled by criminals," Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to the heavily armed LTTE guerrillas.

The Jaffna peninsula, linked to the mainland by a narrow strip called the Elephant Pass, is densely and almost entirely populated by the minority Tamils.

Tamil sources said government authority has ceased to exist in Jaffna, the nerve centre of Tamil politics and reportedly the home of a large LTTE following.

Mr. Wijeratne said LTTE guerrillas had escaped into jungles in the Eastern Province, adding that army soldiers and elite paramilitary commandos were trying to drive them out.

"We are going to the jungles. These operations will continue until we hunt them down," he said.

Mr. Wijeratne said the multi-racial eastern wing of the island was limping back to normalcy, although the Tigers had disrupted electricity lines in some areas after they were restored Wednesday [4 July].

Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunga told the news conference that 300 security troops and 419 LTTE guerrillas have died in the fighting, while five civilians have died in cross-fire. But official and unofficial sources dispute the figures, placing the number killed since June 11 in the Tamil-majority northeast at more than 1,200, including civilians.

Mr. Wijeratne charged the Tigers with creating artificial food shortages in Jaffna by pilfering government stocks, and with forcing Tamils in the area to take refuge in southern India. He said there was sufficient rice in government stores in Jaffna on June 11 to last at least two months but LTTE cadres had taken large stocks to their jungle hideouts. The minister said Colombo would send a convoy of food trucks to Jaffna with help from the Red Cross, adding "Let us see if these wonderful liberators of the Tamil people will allow the food to reach Jaffna."

In a related development, Mr. Wijeratne said Colombo would dissolve the regional government in the northeast, which is dominated by two Tamil groups bitterly opposed to the LTTE. He said Parliament would approve legislation Friday [6 July] allowing President Ranasinghe Premadasa to dissolve the northeastern administration, where majority seats are held by the Marxist Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

The EPRLF took power in November 1988 in elections boycotted by the LTTE, but its leaders, including the regional chief minister, fled the province ahead of a pullout in March by Indian troops deployed there under a 1987 accord. The EPRLF and a Moslem political party have opposed the government's decision to dissolve the northeastern government, a long-standing demand of the LTTE.